The World's Oldest Chess Journal

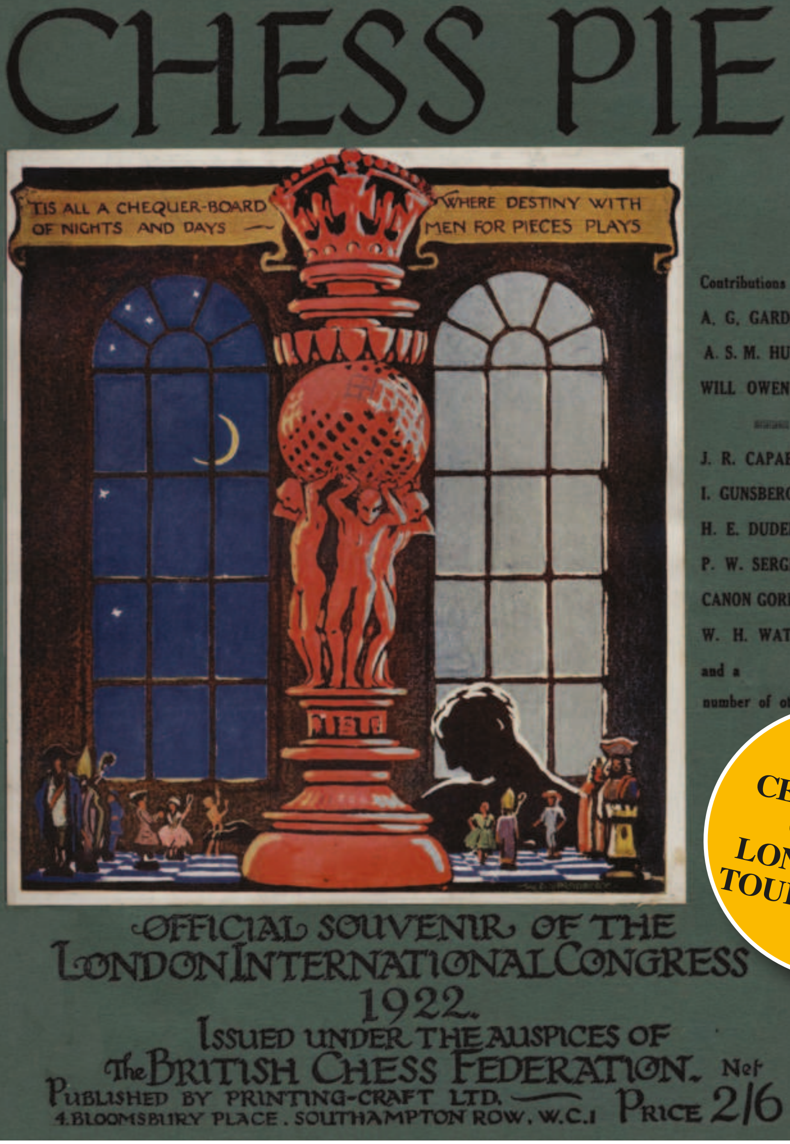
BRITISH CHESS MAGAZINE

Since 1881

Volume 142

AUGUST
2022
£5.50

ISSN 0007-0440
9 770007 044000 02208


'TIS ALL A CHEQUER-BOARD OF NIGHTS AND DAYS —
WHERE DESTINY WITH MEN FOR PIECES PLAYS

CHESS PIE

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OFFICIAL SOUVENIR OF THE
LONDON INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
1922.
ISSUED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF
THE BRITISH CHESS FEDERATION.
PUBLISHED BY PRINTING-CRAFT LTD.
4 BLOOMSBURY PLACE. SOUTHAMPTON ROW, W.C.1
Net PRICE 2/6

THE CENTENARY OF THE LONDON 1922 TOURNAMENT

CARLSEN TO ABDICATE THRONE

A BIG CHANGE AND CHALLENGE IN CHESS

IMPRESSUM

BRITISH CHESS MAGAZINE
Founded 1881

www.britishchessmagazine.co.uk

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ISSN 0007-0440
© The British Chess Magazine Limited
Company Limited by Shares
Registered in England No 00334968

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Albany House, 14 Shute End
Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 1BJ

Subscription
support@britishchessmagazine.co.uk
12 monthly issues
UK: £55 | RoW: £85

Printed in the UK: by Lavenham Press Ltd

Cover photography:
BCM / Chess Pie: The Official Souvenir of the
London 1922 International Tournament

Contents

498 EMANUEL LASKER
LIFE, STRUGGLE AND SCHOLARSHIP

454 **THE LONDON INTERNATIONAL CHESS CONGRESS**

458 How BCM summarised the London 1922 tournament:
“DESPITE THE PROPHECIES OF MANY PESSIMISTS THE TOURNEY WAS A GREAT SUCCESS”

460 BCM Endgames and Problem editor TR Dawson on the London 1922 tournament:
IMPRESSIONS AND GOSSIP OF A FIRST VISIT

464 **A CONTEMPORARY LOOK AT THE LONDON 1922 CHESS CONGRESS**
By James Pratt

468 London 1922 Openings Survey:
FROM CLASSICAL TO HYPERMODERN
By GM Aleksandar Colovic

480 Openings for Amateurs
THE DEBUT OF THE LONDON SYSTEM AT THE LONDON INTERNATIONAL CHESS CONGRESS
By Pete Tamburro

484 **CHESS PROBLEMS FROM OVER A CENTURY AGO**
By Chris Jones

BCM's view on the announcement of Magnus Carlsen that he will not defend his world title:

A big change and challenge in chess

On July 20th, World Champion Magnus Carlsen announced that he will not defend his world crown. The story was widely reported across the world, giving a rare spark to chess in mainstream media, albeit a sad one.

Magnus Carlsen's decision not to defend his chess crown has been coming for a long time. As far back as 2018, he told the Norwegian state broadcaster that he may not defend his title in 2020, referring to the same issues he has cited in his announcement on 20th July, lack of motivation and fatigue. Even before he became world champion, the Norwegian had issues with how the qualifying system works and how the title is defended, and his unhappiness about this has grown over the years.

Instead of the announcement coming via FIDE, the international chess body, Carslen's decision was published on the chess24 website which he owns and in the premier episode of a podcast he will co-host.

While there is no reason to doubt Carlsen's word, it is a fact that this is just an announcement and that he has not yet signed any formal letter or officially withdrawn from the match. This has allowed space for some to speculate that Carlsen might change his mind.

Not motivated enough

In the announcement - as in many other comments he gave on this issue over the years - Carlsen made it clear that the decision was made based on what he felt is best for him.

'I am not motivated to play another match. I simply feel that I don't have a lot to gain, I don't particularly like it, and although I'm sure a match would be interesting for historical reasons and all of that, I don't have any inclination to play and I will simply not play the match.'

Carlsen also noted that he informed FIDE of his decision whilst in Madrid, during the Candidates and said there were no negotiations about whether or not he will play in the next match.

'As many know, I was in Madrid for the conclusion of the Candidates Tournament. After the conclusion I did agree to meet with Dvorkovich and Sutovsky from FIDE to talk a little bit. I did not have any demands or suggestions for that meeting. They did have a couple of suggestions, but the gist of it was that I was there to tell them that I would not defend my title in the next World Championship match, and we had a small discussion. They had some suggestions, some of them I liked, some of them I did not.'

Given what he has achieved, could we ask for more?

Many will be disappointed by Carlsen's decision not to defend his crown. However, as FIDE Director General Emil Sutovsky noted, he is not the first to have gone down this path:

'Every dominant Champion quit at some stage: Morphy, Lasker (he resigned the title in 1920 and insisted on playing the 1921 Match as a challenger), Fischer, Kasparov. No FIDE, weak FIDE, strong FIDE. Does not matter. As sad as it is, Carlsen is in line with his great predecessors.'

Carlsen is just 31 and so far he has won the championship match for the world chess crown five consecutive times, has achieved the highest ratng in history to date (2882 and is aiming to set another record of 2900), has won every possible prestigious chess tournament and has a comfortable score against all of his contemporaries. What else is there?

Thankfully, there does not appear to be any reason to fear that Carlsen will follow in Fischer's footsteps and enter a long period of self-imposed exile and estrangement from chess. Not has Carlsen demonstrated to date any of Fischer's erratic behaviour or appeared to suffer from the demons with which Fischer had to contend.

We surely have to have an understanding (as FIDE has noted) of the the tremendous toll that playing five matches for the world title may have taken on Carlsen. The feeling among some commentators that Carlsen's decision not to defend his title in 2023 is disrespectful to the traditions of chess in general and to FIDE in particular is perhaps understandable, but in our view does not sufficiently take account of the individual at the centre.

Many commentators like to argue that chess is a sport. Well, if that is so, let us listen to the voice of another hugely respected world-class sportsman at the top of his game. Reflecting on the increasing demands on top class cricket players, Ben Stokes recently pithily observed: "We are not cars where you can fill us up with petrol and let us go. It has an effect on you, the playing, the travel, it does add up". Chess administrators, organisers and sponsors please take note.

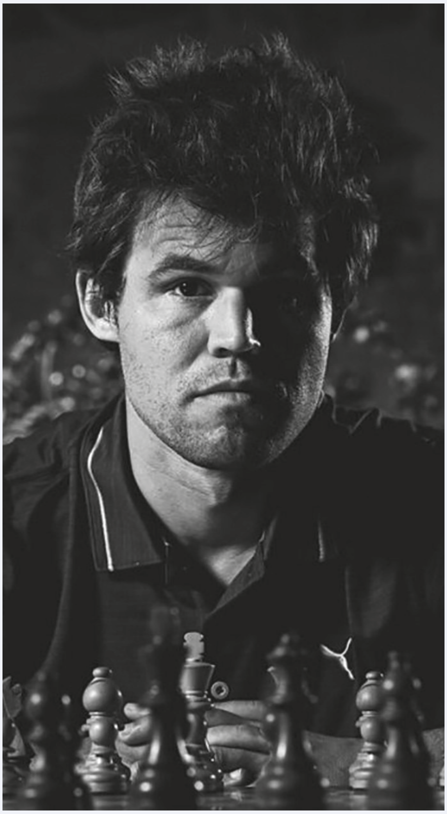


Photo: Stev Bonhage, FIDE

The issue of the legitimacy of the next world champion

There is, however, one issue. If Nepomniachtchi or Ding become the next world champion, either of them will forever be undeservedly marked by the question of how legitimate that title is. Many feel that Karpov never succeeded in lifting the cloud of doubt in terms of over-the-board play about the legitimacy of his accession to the world champion title in 1975.

And the first speculative remark has already been made, by none other than Garry Kasparov, who was quoted by Grand Chess Tour to have said: 'In order to be considered the 17th World Chess Champion, you have to beat Magnus Carlsen'. Kasparov also sees the need for change in format of world championship matches by saying that he supports Carlsen's initiative of including rapid and blitz into the World Championship: 'That's what people want to see. That's why we have millions of new followers. Nobody wants to wait 8 hours for the result of the game'.

The impact of Carlsen's announcement on chess in general and chess in the West

Since becoming world champion Magnus Carlsen has been a great promoter of the game - giving interviews, organising events, and engaging with the audience. Thanks to him, chess has become immensely more popular not just in Norway but it has gained prominence and profile throughout the West. The positive impact was also felt on the organisational side: more experienced professionals from business, marketing and PR entered chess. That helped the game become more attractive and gain more traction in the media and with the wider public which subsequently led to more money being invested in chess and chess events.

Now, if Carlsen remains true to his announcement and steps down from the title, something of that energising power in the West will be lost.

The timing of Carlsen's announcement and global events

We are currently witnessing one of the most dangerous periods in modern history, with open talk of a world war between Russia (and even China) and the West. In light of what is happening, enormous efforts have been made across the West to neutralise Russian influence, and that has included chess.

The world champion has a lot of power and a strong voice, not just in the world of chess but beyond it.

Of course, it is not Carlsen's duty to take part in some kind of global political crusade. But, with his abdication announcement, the chess crown will pass to a player from either Russia or China. While there is nothing to suggest that Nepomniachtchi or Ding - should either become world champion - will act as the voice of politicians and the ruling elites in Moscow or Beijing, it doesn't take a political expert to see that the separation between sport and politics is greater in the West than in the East, and that the world chess crown would be a major symbolic gain and boost for such countries and especially for Russia.

What next for Carlsen?

'Just so there's no ambiguity here, I'm not retiring from chess, I'm still going to be an active player', Carlsen said following his announcement and immediately went on to win the Grand Chess Tour event in Croatia. His priority in terms of competitive chess will likely be to reach the 2900 rating (he is currently on 2864), which has never been achieved in history, and no doubt promoting his own events and interests in the wider chess world.

Carlsen has been a great champion and no doubt will continue to be one, whether or not he holds the title of world champion. He has given a lot to chess and - he is still only 31 - he will undoubtedly give a lot more.

This is by no means the end of speculation regarding Carlsen. In his recent podcast Carlsen said: 'I don't rule out a return in the future, but I wouldn't particularly count on it either.' So, after years of speculation one has ended and another has started - when and if he will return and what will his focus be? Whatever he decides, says and does the chess world will surely listen. Let us hope that he continues to use wisely and for the benefit of the wider chess community the authority and respect which his massive achievements confer and deserve.

THE LONDON INTERNATIONAL CHESS CONGRESS

Central Hall, Westminster, July 31 to August 19, 1922

(Article originally published in 'The book of the International Chess Congress 1922', published in 1923)

To British Chessplayers in general and to London Chessplayers in particular the history of the London International Congress of 1922 is already well known. Nevertheless some permanent record of the Tournament and its inception is necessary.

The indefatigable efforts of Mr. S. J. Holloway to raise the necessary funds for the Tournament will be fresh in the minds of everyone and although the whole of the amount required was not raised his success in this direction was unprecedented, the deficit being much less than was expected.

Two previous International Tournaments in London are within living memory and in the official Tournament books issued in connection with them several early pages are occupied with lengthy lists of donations, and somewhat dull records of the preliminaries.

These less interesting details are omitted from the present work because they were fully recorded in *The Chess News Sheet*, which formed an unique feature of Mr. Holloway's propaganda. Six numbers of this sheet were issued—the last one giving the final results as well as a series of "impressions" of the Congress by prominent players and visitors—some serious, some humorous, but all interesting.

The preliminaries in connection with this Tournament were unique in more ways than one for in addition to the *News Sheet* a valuable souvenir of the Congress entitled *Chess Pie* was issued, edited by the present writer. It was hoped that this publication might be able to assist the Tournament funds but although this hope has not yet been realised it was at least self supporting, and if the remaining stock is sold the fund may yet benefit. A gratifying feature of the issue of *Chess Pie* is the fact that orders came from every part of the world. Iceland, China, Japan, Central Africa, South Africa, Siberia and South America, as well as all the countries from which one would expect a demand. This fact proves how well the Tournament was advertised and how far flung are the devotees of the game of Chess.

The Congress was so arranged that it embraced the annual. British Chess Federation Tournaments. The principal event commenced on Monday, July 31st. After the official opening by the Right Ron. A. Bonar Law and the Mayor of Westminster, an inaugural luncheon which the competitors, the officials and many distinguished visitors attended, took place in the playing hall. Play commenced the same afternoon.

On Monday, August 7th, the Minor Tournaments commenced and were so arranged that all sections concluded together on the evening of Friday, August 18th.

The Minor Tournaments comprised the following events :

Major Open Tournament,
Minor
Women's
First Class Tournament, 3 sections,
Second Class, 3 sections,
Third Class, 2 sections

In these events a total of 150 players took part whilst the number who took part in the miscellaneous competitions during the last fortnight was very much larger.

A surprising feature, but at the same time a very welcome one, was the very large "gate". The number of visitors to witness the play—particularly in the masters tournament was wholly unprecedented and to an extent unexpected. It shows in a way that nothing else can do that Chess is becoming increasingly popular. The glamour of the title "World’s Champion" helped not a little in swelling the gate receipts.

The final result of the masters tournament was in no way a surprise in fact the first two in the order named were hot favourites with Rubinstein third, but the latter was not in the invincible form of old and finished fourth.

With the exception of Morrison and Watson the competitors’ individual records to the date of the tournament were fully given **in** *Chess* Pie—the already mentioned official souvenir and consequently there is no need to recount them again in the present book. Most of the photographs which follow are reprinted from *Chess Pie*.

Details of the financial aspect of the event are given in the British Chess Federation Year Book and do not need recapitulation.

There is little else to place on record beyond the success of the whole enterprise, and its result on British Chess can but be for good. British amateurs have had the opportunity of continued practice with the very best exponents from all over the world and further, this International Congress has resulted in the participation of several masters in subsequent tournaments in this Country—notably the double round contest at Hastings in September and the later Single Round Tourney, also at Hastings, and, the meetings at Liverpool and Margate.

A complete score table in order of merit and game index to the Masters Tournament follow.

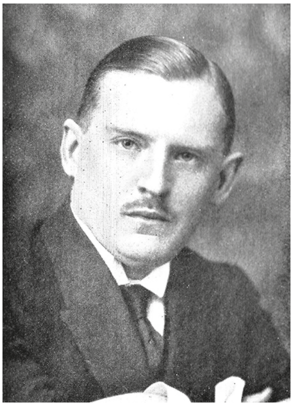
MASTERS TOURNAMENT

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	TT.	Prizes
1	J. R. Capablanca, Cuba	*	½	1	½	1	1	½	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	1st £250
2	A. Alekhine, Russia	½	*	½	1	½	½	½	½	1	1	1	1	½	1	1	1	11½	2nd £150
3	Dr. M. Vidmar, C. Slovakia	0	½	*	0	1	½	1	½	1	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	3rd £100
4	A. Rubinstein, Poland	½	0	1	*	½	½	1	1	½	0	1	½	1	1	1	1	10½	4th £70
5	E. D. Bogoljubow, Ukrania	0	½	0	½	*	½	1	1	0	1	½	0	1	1	1	1	9	5th £40
6	R. Reti, Czecko Slovakia	0	½	½	½	½	*	½	½	1	1	½	1	0	1	0	1	8½	6th £30
7	Dr. S. Tartakower, Ukrania	½	½	0	0	0	½	*	½	1	0	1	1	1	½	1	1	8½	7th £25
8	G. Maroczy, Hungary	½	½	½	0	0	½	½	*	1	½	½	1	½	0	1	1	8	8th £20
9	F. D. Yates, Great Britain	0	0	0	½	1	0	0	0	*	1	1	1	1	1	½	1	8	
10	H. E. Atkins, Great Britain	0	0	½	1	0	0	1	½	0	*	0	1	½	½	0	1	6	
11	M. Euwe, Holland	0	0	0	0	½	½	0	½	0	1	*	0	1	0	1	1	5½	
12	E. Znosko-Borovsky, Russia	0	0	0	½	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	*	1	½	1	0	5	
13	V. L. Wahltuch, Gt. Britain	0	½	0	0	0	1	0	½	0	½	0	0	*	1	1	½	5	
14	J. S. Morrison, Canada	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	1	0	½	1	½	0	*	0	1	4½	
15	C. G. Watson, Australia	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	½	1	0	0	0	1	*	1	4½	
16	Prof. D. Marotti, Italy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	½	0	0	*	1½	

PARTICIPANTS OF THE 1922 MASTERS TOURNAMENT

Photos published in Chess Pie

1st - Jose Raul Capablanca



2nd - Alexander Alekhine

3rd - Milan Vidmar

4th - Akiba Rubinstein

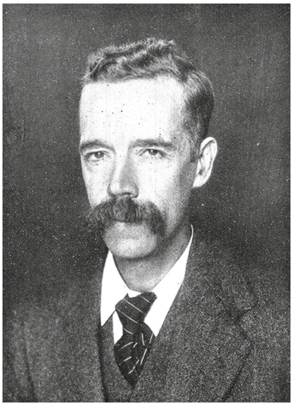
5th - Efim Bogoljubow

6th - Richard Reti

7th - Savielly Tartakower

8th/9th - Geza Maróczy

8th/9th - Frederick Yates


10th - Henry Atkins

11th - Max Euwe

12th - Eugene Znosko-Borovsky

13th - Victor Wahltuch

14th - John Morrison

15th - C . G. Watson

16th - Davide Marotti

How BCM summarised the London 1922 tournament:

"DESPITE THE PROPHECIES OF MANY PESSIMISTS THE TOURNEY WAS A GREAT SUCCESS"

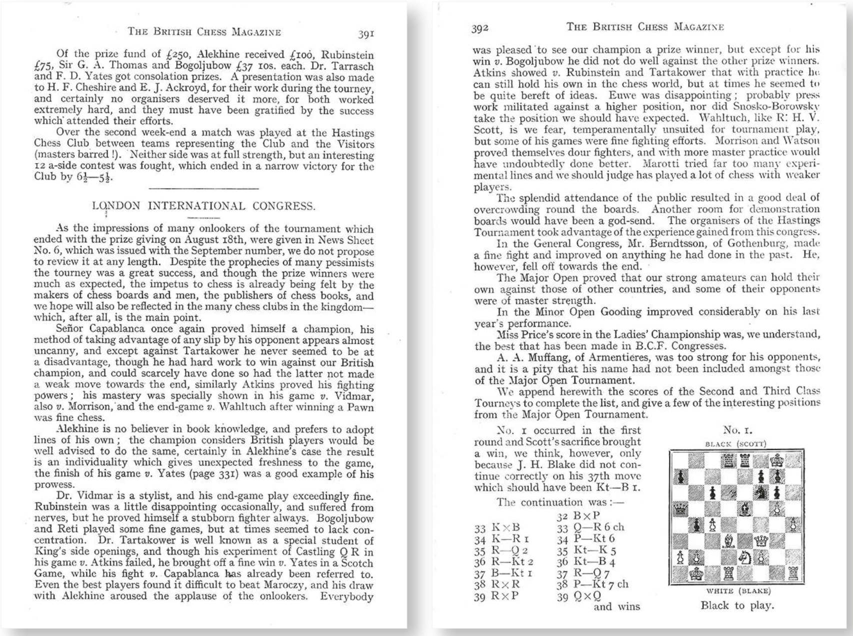
LONDON INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

As the impressions of many onlookers of the tournament which ended with the prize giving on August 18th, were given in News Sheet No. 6, which was issued with the September number, we do not propose to review it at any length. Despite the prophecies of many pessimists the tourney was a great success, and though the prize winners were much as expected, the impetus to chess is already being felt by the makers of chess boards and men, the publishers of chess books, and we hope will also be reflected in the many chess clubs in the kingdom—which, after all, is the main point.

Señor Capablanca once again proved himself a champion, his method of taking advantage of any slip by his opponent appears almost uncanny, and except against Tartakower he never seemed to be at a disadvantage, though he had hard work to win against our British champion, and could scarcely have done so had the latter not made a weak move towards the end, similarly Atkins proved his fighting powers ; his mastery was specially shown in his game v. Vidmar, also v. Morrison, and the end-game v. Wahltuch after winning a Pawn was fine chess.

Alekhine is no believer in book knowledge, and prefers to adopt lines of his own; the champion considers British players would be well advised to do the same, certainly in Alekhine's case the result is an individuality which gives unexpected freshness to the game, the finish of his game v. Yates was a good example of his prowess.

Dr. Vidmar is a stylist, and his end-game play exceedingly fine. Rubinstein was a little disappointing occasionally, and suffered from nerves, but he proved himself a stubborn fighter always. Bogoljubow and Reti played some fine games, but at times seemed to lack concentration. Dr. Tartakower is well known as a special student of King's side openings, and though his experiment of Castling Q R in his game v. Atkins failed, he brought off a fine win v. Yates in a Scotch Game, while his fight v. Capablanca has already been referred to. Even the best players found it difficult to beat Maróczy, and his draw with Alekhine aroused the applause of the onlookers. Everybody was pleased to see our champion a prize winner, but except for his win v. Bogoljubow he did not do well against the other prize winners. Atkins showed v. Rubinstein and Tartakower that with practice can still hold his own in the chess world, but at times he seemed to be quite bereft of ideas. Euwe was disappointing; probably press work militated against a higher position, nor did Snosko-Borowsky take the position we should have expected. Wahltuch, like R: H. V. Scott, is we fear, temperamentally unsuited for tournament play, but some of his games were



Of the prize fund of £250, Alekhine received £100, Rubinstein £75, Sir G. A. Thomas and Bogoljubow £37 10s. each. Dr. Tarrasch and F. D. Yates got consolation prizes. A presentation was also made to H. F. Cheshire and E. J. Ackroyd, for their work during the tourney, and certainly no organisers deserved it more, for both worked extremely hard, and they must have been gratified by the success which attended their efforts.

Over the second week-end a match was played at the Hastings Chess Club between teams representing the Club and the Visitors (masters barred !). Neither side was at full strength, but an interesting 12 a-side contest was fought, which ended in a narrow victory for the Club by 6½—5½.

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The splendid attendance of the public resulted in a good deal of overcrowding round the boards. Another room for demonstration boards would have been a god-send. The organisers of the Hastings Tournament took advantage of the experience gained from this congress.

In the General Congress, Mr. Berndtsson, of Gothenburg, made a fine fight and improved on anything he had done in the past. He, however, fell off towards the end.

The Major Open proved that our strong amateurs can hold their own against those of other countries, and some of their opponents were of master strength.

In the Minor Open Gooding improved considerably on his last year's performance.

Miss Price's score in the Ladies' Championship was, we understand, the best that has been made in B.C.F. Congresses.

A. A. Muffang, of Armentieres, was too strong for his opponents, and it is a pity that his name had not been included amongst those of the Major Open Tournament.

We append herewith the scores of the Second and Third Class Tourneys to complete the list, and give a few of the interesting positions from the Major Open Tournament.

No. 1 occurred in the first round and Scott's sacrifice brought a win, we think, however, only because J. H. Blake did not continue correctly on his 37th move which should have been Kt—B 1.

The continuation was :—

	32 B×P
33 K×B	33 Q—R 6 ch
34 K—R 1	34 P—Kt 6
35 R—Q 2	35 Kt—K 5
36 R—Kt 2	36 Kt—B 4
37 B—Kt 1	37 R—Q 7
38 R×R	38 P—Kt 7 ch
39 R×P	39 Q×Q
	and wins

No. 1.

BLACK (SCOTT)

WHITE (BLAKE)

Black to play.

Copy from the original pages of BCM

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BCM Endgames and Problem editor TR Dawson on the London 1922 tournament:

IMPRESSIONS AND GOSSIP OF A FIRST VISIT

SPECIALLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE "C.A." – September, 1922

Never having visited a chess congress before, I went with an open mind, prepared for anything I found it. Chess congresses, I soon learned, are not really for chess, but only for chess play. There is, however, a social side of the congress which is pleasantly good—saying “How d’you do?” to folk you have exchanged letters with for years and never previously met, is rather exciting.

My day there covered the 5th round of the principal tournament and supplied a variety of incidents more or less worth mentioning. The first hour or so of play was exceedingly dull. Only the most ardent enthusiastic students of the openings can find interest, in the sound, stolid, first fifteen moves or so of these master games. The three deep serried ranks round the Capablanca board indicated, indeed, that a classic hero was more attractive than mere openings. During this period I wandered about, a disconsolate lost problemist, seeking distractions. Not being able to pursue my acquaintance with Wahltuch, Watson, and Yates beyond nods, during their serious struggle over the board, I was glad to light upon our genial problem editor and Dr. Schumer. The latter gave me some amusing reflections, for referring to my predilection for the humorous and fantastic, Dr. Schemer waved his hand toward the players with the comment: “This is serious chess, of course.” I admit the “serious,” but beg to doubt the “of course.” I idly reflected that these masters put in some four or six hours’ strenuous thought over one game—and it is strenuous alright, some of them being obviously tired out by the end of the day. But we problemists think nothing of twenty, forty, a hundred strenuous hours over one solitary problem. There are two of my retro problems cost me six years of intermittent work—at a guess, a thousand hours--to complete, and I have a score of others over which I have worked ten years, and they are still baffling me. This, “of course,” is not serious chess, I presume.

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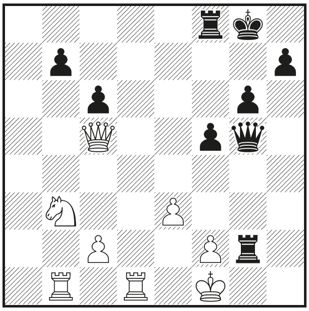
Morisson v Euwe.



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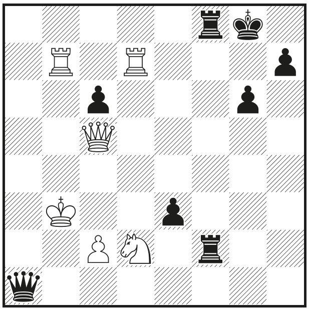
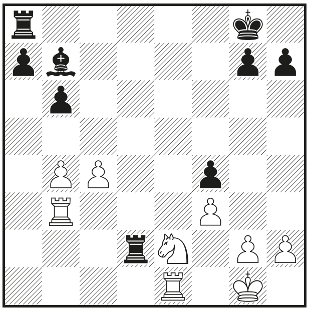


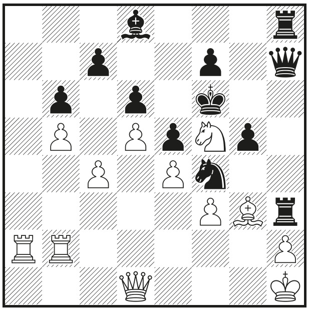
In position 1, the Canadian champion, with a Knight for a couple of Pawns, was confronted by a stiff attack on his King. The next move or two ran 1...♕g4 2.♔e1 ♖h2 3.K♔d2 ♖xf2+ 4.♔c3 ♕e4 5.♖d3 f4. Half an hour later, I returned to witness the climax, in Diagram 2. Evidently the young Dutch player would profit by a dose of problems for he played the wretched move, ♖xd2, leaving the Canadian a simple mate in two and a well-deserved win.

Contemporary with the preceding events, and at the next board, two seasonal warriors, Reti and Tartakower, were fencing elegantly in the closing stages of a delicate ending (No. 3).

Reti v Tartakower.

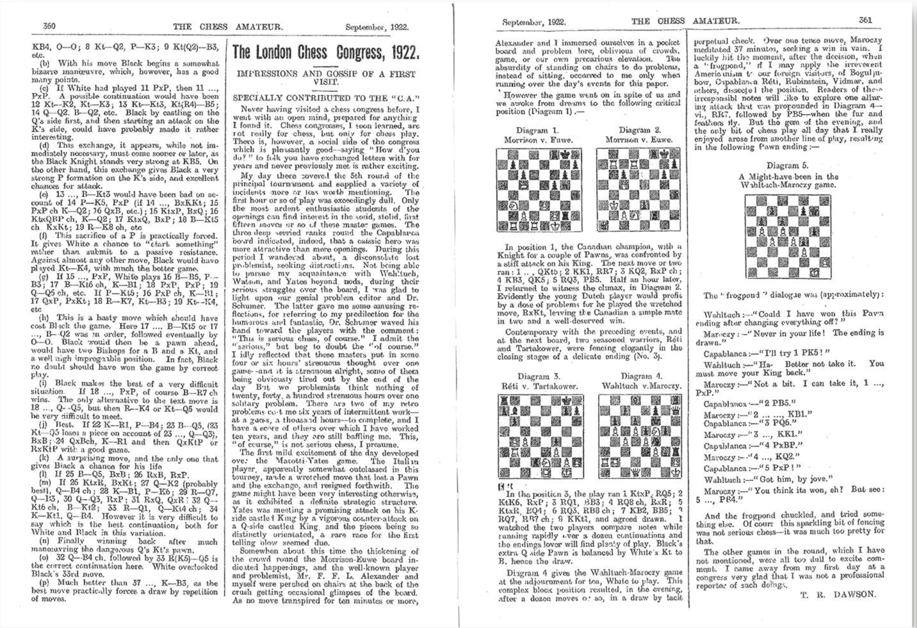


Wahltuch v Maroczy.



In the position 3, the play ran 1.♘xf4 ♖d4 2.♘e6 ♖xc4 3.♖d1 ♗c6 4.♖d8 ♖xd8 5.♘xd8 ♗d5 6.♖d3 ♖c1+ 7.♔f2 ♗c4 8.♖d7 ♖c2+ 9.♔g1, and agreed drawn. I watched the two players compare notes while running rapidly over a dozen continuations and the endings lover will find plenty of play. Black's extra ♕ side Pawn is balanced by White's ♘ to ♗. hence the draw.

Diagram 4 gives the Wahltuch-Maroczy game at the adjournment for tea, White to play. This complex block position resulted, in the evening, after a dozen moves so, in a draw by tacit perpetual check. Over one tense move, Marozcy meditated 37 minutes, seeking a win in vain. I luckily hit the moment, after the decision, when a 'frogpond,' if I may apply the irreverent Americanism to our foreign visitors, of Bogoljubow, Capablanca, Reti, Rubinstein, Vidmar, and others, dissected the position. Readers of these irresponsible notes will like to explore one alluring attack that was propounded in Diagram 4- vi., ♖a7. followed by Pc5—when the fur and feathers fly. But the gem of the evening, and the only bit of chess play all day that I really enjoyed arose from another line of play, resifting in the following Pawn ending:



360 THE CHESS AMATEUR. September, 1922.

KB4, O—O; 8 Kt—Q2, P—K3; 9 Kt(Q2)—B3, etc.

(b) With his move Black begins a somewhat bizarre manœuvre, which, however, has a good many points.

(c) If White had played 11 PxP, then 11 ..., PxP. A possible continuation would have been 12 Kt—K2, Kt—K3; 13 Kt—Kt3, Kt(R4)—B5; 14 Q—Q2, B—Q2, etc. Black by castling on the Q's side first, and then starting an attack on the K's side, could have probably made it rather interesting.

(d) This exchange, it appears, while not immediately necessary, must come sooner or later, as the Black Knight stands very strong at KB5. On the other hand, this exchange gives Black a very strong P formation on the K's side, and excellent chances for attack.

(e) 13 ..., B—Kt3 would have been bad on account of 14 P—K5, PxP (if 14 ..., BxKKt; 15 PxP ch K—Q2; 16 QxB, etc.); 15 KtxP, BxQ; 16 KtxQBP ch, K—Q2; 17 KtxQ, BxP; 18 B—Kt5 ch KxKt; 19 R—K8 ch, etc

(f) This sacrifice of a P is practically forced. It gives White a chance to "start something" rather than submit to a passive resistance. Against almost any other move, Black would have played Kt—K4, with much the better game.

(g) If 15 ..., PxP, White plays 16 B—B5, P—B3; 17 B—Kt6 ch, K—B1; 18 PxP, PxP; 19 Q—Q5 ch, etc. If P—Kt5; 16 PxP ch, K—B1; 17 QxP, PxKt; 18 R—K7, Kt—B3; 19 Kt—K4, etc

(h) This is a hasty move which should have cost Black the game. Here 17 .... B—Kt5 or 17 ..., B—Q2 was in order, followed eventually by O—O. Black would then be a pawn ahead, would have two Bishops for a B and a Kt, and a well nigh impregnable position. In fact, Black no doubt should have won the game by correct play.

(i) Black makes the best of a very difficult situation. If 18 ..., PxP, of course B—R7 ch wins. The only alternative to the text move is 18 ..., Q—Q5, but then R—K4 or Kt—Q5 would be very difficult to meet.

(j) Best. If 22 K—R1, P—B4; 23 B—Q5, (23 Kt—Q5 loses a piece on account of 23 ..., Q—Q3), BxB; 24 QxBch, K—R1 and then QxKtP or RxKtP with a good game.

(k) A surprising move, and the only one that gives Black a chance for his life

(l) If 25 B—Q5, BxB; 26 RxB, RxP.

(m) If 26 KtxR, BxKt; 27 Q—K2 (probably best), Q—B4 ch; 28 K—B1, P—K6; 29 R—Q7, Q—B3, 30 Q—Q3, RxP; 31 RxQ, QxR; 32 Q—Kt6 ch, B—Kt2; 33 R—Q1, Q—Kt4 ch; 34 K—Kt1, Q—R4. However it is very difficult to say which is the best continuation, both for White and Black in this variation.

(n) Finally winning back after much manœuvring the dangerous Q's Kt's pawn.

(o) 32 Q—B4 ch, followed by 33 R(K5)—Q5 is the correct continuation here. White overlooked Black's 33rd move.

(p) Much better than 37 ..., K—B3, as the best move practically forces a draw by repetition of moves.

The London Chess Congress, 1922.

IMPRESSIONS AND GOSSIP OF A FIRST VISIT.

SPECIALLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE "C.A."

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September, 1922. THE CHESS AMATEUR. 361

Diagram 1.
Morrison v. Euwe.

Diagram 2.
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In position 1, the Canadian champion, with a Knight for a couple of Pawns, was confronted by a stiff attack on his King. The next move or two ran: 1 ..., QKt5; 2 KK1, RR7; 3 KQ2, RxP ch; 4 KB3, QK5; 5 RQ3, PB5. Half an hour later, I returned to witness the climax, in Diagram 2. Evidently the young Dutch player would profit by a dose of problems for he played the wretched move, RxKt, leaving the Canadian a simple mate in two and a well-deserved win.

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Diagram 3.
Réti v. Tartakower.

Diagram 4.
Wahltuch v. Maroczy.

In the position 3, the play ran 1 KtxP, RQ5; 2 KtK6, RxP; 3 RQ1, BB3; 4 RQ8 ch, RxR; 5 KtxR, BQ4; 6 RQ3, RB8 ch; 7 KB2, BB5; 8 RQ7, RB7 ch; 9 KKt1, and agreed drawn. I watched the two players compare notes while running rapidly over a dozen continuations and the endings lover will find plenty of play. Black's extra Q side Pawn is balanced by White's Kt to B, hence the draw.

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Diagram 5.
A Might-have-been in the Wahltuch-Maroczy game.

The "frogpond" dialogue was (approximately):

Wahltuch:—"Could I have won this Pawn ending after changing everything off?"

Maroczy:—"Never in your life! The ending is drawn."

Capablanca:—"I'll try 1 PK5!"

Wahltuch:—"Ha- Better not take it. You must move your King back."

Maroczy:—"Not a bit. I can take it, 1 ..., PxP."

Capablanca:—"2 PB5."

Maroczy:—"2 ... ..., KB1."

Capablanca:—"3 PQ6."

Maroczy:—"3 ..., KK1."

Capablanca:—"4 PxBP."

Maroczy:—"4 ..., KQ2."

Capablanca:—"5 PxP!"

Wahltuch:—"Got him, by jove."

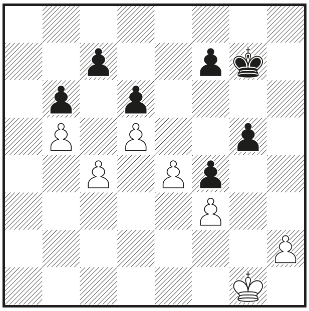
Maroczy:—"You think its won, eh? But see: 5 ..., PB4."

And the frogpond chuckled, and tried something else. Of course this sparkling bit of fencing was not serious chess—it was much too pretty for that.

The other games in the round, which I have not mentioned, were all too dull to excite comment. I came away from my first day at a congress very glad that I was not a professional reporter of such doings.

T. R. DAWSON.

A Might-have been in the Wahltuch-Maroczy game.



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Maroczy: "Never in your life! The ending is drawn."
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Wahltuch: "Ha- Better not, take it. You must, move your King back."
Maroczy: "Not, a bit. I can take it, 1… dxe5."
Capablanca: "2.c5."
Maroczy: "2… ♔f8."
Capalalanca: "3.d6."
Maroczy: "3…♔e8."
Capablanca: "4.dxc7."
Mavoczy: "4...♔d7."
Capablanca: "5.cxb6!"
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Thomas Rayner Dawson - The brilliant Fairy problemist and BCM problem section editor

Thomas Rayner Dawson (28 November 1889 - 16 December 1951) was a brilliant English chess problemist and a problem and endgames editor for BCM.

Chess Pie in 1923 gave the following biography of TR Dawson:

THOMAS RAYNER DAWSON, M.Sc, A.I.C., born 1889 in Leeds, follows the bent of his famous uncle, the late James Rayner, who edited the problem section of the British Chess Magazine for many years. Dawson, learning chess at the age of 12, like Bernard was driven to problem lore by lack of opponents at the game. His first two-mover was published in 1907, but he soon found that chess, as played, would not satisfy his strong bent for every form of puzzle. In his own words, 'appalled by the monotonous sameness of direct maters,' Dawson took up the study of 'Fairy Chess,' in which composers make their own fanciful conditions of play, and found here so vast and fascinating a field that he has produced nearly 2,000 chess puzzles in the last 15 years. Dawson is a prominent Chess Editor and conducts very popular columns in the 'Chess Amateur' and the Italian 'L'Alfiere di Re.'

The Oxford Companion to Chess (1996) describes him in the following words:

"English composer, pioneer of both fairy problems and retrograde analysis. His problems in these fields form the greater part of his output (about 6,500 compositions) and are better remembered than his studies and orthodox problems. For fairy problems he invented new pieces: grasshopper (1912) LEO (1912), NEUTRAL MAN (1912) NIGHT RIDER (1925), and VAO (1912); he codified new rules such as the maximummer (1913) and various kinds of series-mover; and he used unorthodox boards."

In the period of 1919 to 1930 he wrote a column devoted to fairy problems in the Chess Amateur. He is one of the cofounders of The Problemist in 1926. From 1931 up to 1936 he was the editor of The Problemist Fairy Supplement and finally moving to The Fairy Chess Review (1936 until his passing in 1951). He was President of The British Chess Problem Society from September 1931 to 1943.

He was the problem section editor of the British Chess Magazine from 1931 to 1951. In December 1947 he left the post of endgame editor for BCM parting from the readers with the following message: "With this page I reluctantly terminate on health grounds some forty years of work in the Endings field, and my contributions to this corner of the "British Chess Magazine". To the many readers of these pages, a Merry Christmas and steadily improving years."

During his career he composed some 6,400 problems and 150 studies.

Away from chess, TR Dawson (who graduated chemistry) worked in the rubber industry where he rose to prominence.

A contemporary look at the London 1922 Chess Congress

All in a year when Tutankhamen's tomb was exhumed, Capablanca was to appear in public for the first time since winning the World Title. James Pratt takes the lid off a fine event in our history

The London 1922 Chess Congress came at a price for British chess, but it proved to be worth it!

It was decided not to hold the British Championship itself but stage an international event, 29th July to 18th August. The World Champion was coming plus several challengers! Vidmar, who began so strongly but faded, Znosko-Borowsky, today remembered more as author rather than player, Réti, who here never pressed hard enough versus Watson, Bogoljubov - who underestimated 22. ♘xf7 against Znosko. Add Rubinstein, Wahltuch …

In all sixteen players assembled in the Central Hall in Westminster opposite the Houses of Parliament. They invited the Prime Minister, a certain Andrew Bonar-Law (a Conservative who died in 1923 after just seven months in office) to open play.

Looking at the crosstable it surprises that so few of the home players were invited - only Atkins and Yates. The Italian Marotti was largely outclassed but the Champions of Canada and Australia held their own. Donkey's years later, Purdy annotated a game from the event by his compatriot, Watson, an 83-move marathon against Yates. Maroczy (b.1870) the veteran of the field, wrote a book about the tournament. Future World Champions - Alekhine and Euwe - likely prize winners to match Capablanca. *No!* Euwe finished well down the table, losing all of eight games, even against the Canadian Morrison, an unfancied player, who lived until 1975 walking off with five Canadian Championships in his time. Was his press work, an old excuse, too much distraction for the future FIDE President?

> **"As I have played practically no serious chess for so long a time, I would rather not have appeared at all…"**
>
> [Henry Atkins, as quoted by Chess Pie, 1923]

From an early round, the revolutionary opening theories of Réti were brought out into the daylight and tested here. (His *Modern Ideas in Chess* was to be published months later with better editing than the earlier German edition.)

Davide **Marotti** – Richard **Réti**

London International (3)
[Puncuation by Engqvist]

1.e4 e5 2.♘c3 ♘f6 3.f4 d5 4.fxe5 ♘xe4 5.♘f3 ♗e7 6.♗e2?! 'Passive' - Harding (1976).

6 … 0-0 7.0-0 ♘c6 8.d3 ♗c5+ 9.d4 ♗b6 10.♘a4 ♗f5?! **11.♘xb6 axb6 12.♗e3** Deep Fritz prefers 12.c3 ♗g6 13.♘d3 f6=.

12 … ♗g6 13.♕e1?! **♕e7 14.c3 f6 15.♗b5**?! **fxe5**! **16.♗xc6 bxc6 17.♘xe5 ♖xf1+ 18.♕xf1 c5 19.♘xg6 hxg6 20.dxc5 bxc5 21.♕d3 c6 22.a3**?! **♕b7 23.♕c2 c4 24.♖f1**?! **♖b8 25.♗c1**? **♕b6+ 26.♔h1 ♖f8**? **27.♖xf8+ ♔xf8 28.g3 ♕f2 29.♕xf2+ ♘xf2+ 30.♔g2 ♘d3 31.a4**! **♔e7 32.a5 ♔d7 33.♗e3**?! **c5 34.♔h3**

♔c6 35.a6?? ♔b6 36.♔g4 ♔xa6 37.♔g5 ♔b5 38.♔xg6 ♘xb2

BCM murmured: ‘An exciting ending furnished by Marotti and Réti; the following position (play from move 39) arose after Black had stopped a passed white pawn on the queen’s wing:

39.♔xg7 ♘d1 40.♗d2 ♘xc3! 41.♗xc3 d4 42.♗e1 c3 43.h4 ♔c4! 44.h5 d3 45.♗xc3 ♔xc3 46.h6 d2 47.h7 d1♕ 48.h8♕ ♕d4+ 49.♔h7 ♕xh8+ 50.♔xh8 ♔d4 0-1.

Saviely **Tartakower** – Henry **Atkins**

London International (9)

The elemental power of rooks commanding open lines is well illustrated In this beautiful game - Tartakower & du Mont.

‘Tartakower castled on the Queen’s side v. Atkins and, despite being short of time, Atkins chased his opponents King into the middle of the board and mated him’ - *BCM* 09/22, p329.

1.e4 e5 Alexander in his Pitman handbook, updated even as late as Fischer-Spassky, mentions this game as an example of inadvisable long castling.

2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗c4 ♘f6 4.♘c3 ♘xe4 5.♘xe4 d5 6.♗d3 dxe4 7.♗xe4 ♗d6 8.d4 ♘xd4 9.♘xd4 exd4 10.♕xd4 0-0 Marcozy commented: Black has now the advantage in development, as White cannot castle at once because of … ♗xh2+.

11.♗e3 ♕e7 12.0-0-0 ♖e8 13.♗d5 As this helps Black’s counter-play (14....c6) the best course was 13.♗f3 with level chances. A magnificent trap would be 13.♖he1 ♕xe4 14.♗h6 ♗f4+ 15.♔b1, and wins. But Black coolly replies 13....♗e6, obtaining the better game.

13...♗e5 14.♕a4 c6 15.♗f3 ♗e6 16.♔b1 a5 17.♗d4 ♗d6 18.♗b6 ♗b4 19.c3 ♖a6 20.♗e3 ♗f5+ 21.♔a1 b5 22.♕b3 ♗d6 23.a4

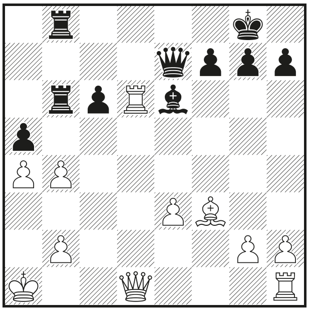
The Central Hall, Westminster

Instead of further compromising his position, he should have resorted to the patient manoeuvre 23.♖d2.

23 ... ♖b8 Maroczy: All Black’s pieces are now well posted for the attack.

24.♖d2 ♗e6 25.♕d1 ♗e5 26.♗d4 ♗f4 27.♗e3 ♗xe3 ‘Now at last Black exchanges in such a way as to give White a very weak king’s position in addition to other troubles’ - Hugh Alexander.

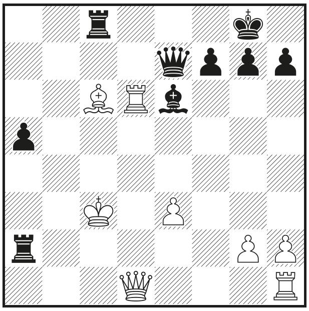
28.fxe3 b4 29.cxb4 ♖ab6 30.♖d6



30...♖xb4 Threatening not only 31....♖xa4+, but also 31....♗b3, followed by… ♖xa4+.

31.♗xc6 ♖xb2 32.♗b5 ♖a2+ 33.♔b1 ♖xa4 34.♔c2 If 34.♕xa4 ♕xd6 the bishop is lost.

34...♖a2+ 35.♔c3 ♖c8+ 36.♗c6



36...♖xc6+ ‘A crowning touch’.

37.♖xc6 ♕b4+ 38.♔d3 ♕b5+ 39.♔d4 ♕xc6 40.♔e5 ♕c5+ 41.♔f4 ♕f5+

The veteran English master covers himself in glory - ‘The Golden Treasury of Chess’ (1943).

42.♔g3 ♕f2# ‘ .. demolition job .. ’ - Neil Hickman in ‘Memorable Games of British Chess’ (2019).

0-1

Capablanca emerged undefeated - Heidenfeld wrote ‘showing initiative and imagination’ - and with a £250 first prize. Alekhine scooped £150 for coming second and he too emerged unscathed.

Lower down, R.P. Michell, Arpad Vajda and Edith Price won their sections, Miss Price scoring a not unimpressive 9.5/11 and she (b.1872), like Maroczy, carried her years lightly. She had been known to taunt Lasker in her time and, recalls Harley in ‘Chess and Its Stars’ but ‘does not indulge in Kriegspiel’. *BCM* offers photos of the event from Messrs Walshaw’s, price 1/-. And doubtless there were takers!

A century old analysis:
Sir George A. Thomas comments on one of the best games of the London 1922 tournament

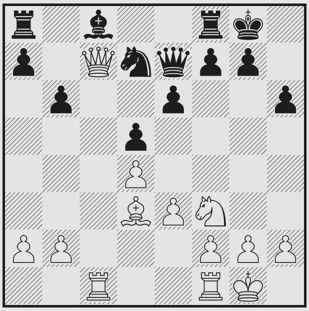
Jose Raul **Capablanca - Dr. Vidmar**

London London, 1922
Sir George A. Thomas

1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.c4 e6 4.♘c3 ♗e7 5.♗g5 ♘bd7 6.e3 0-0 7.♖c1 c6 8.♕c2 dxc4 9.♗xc4 ♘d5 10.♗xe7 ♕xe7 11.0-0 b6 It is usual in this variation - and judging from this game, probably essential-to exchange knights before playing b6.

12.♘xd5 cxd5 13.♗d3 h6 The alternative 13...♘f6 might possibly have turned out somewhat better; but White would, apparently, have a strong grip on the queenside position even then.

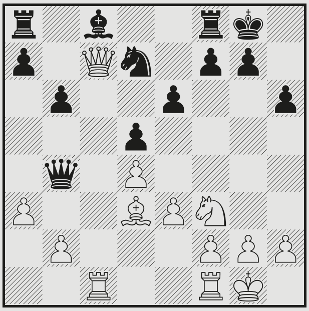
14.♕c7



Heavy material established as firmly as this on the seventh rank must, by all accepted standards, give White a pronounced advantage.

14...♕b4 Black had probably relied on this move to relieve his position. But it is not very easy to see what he hoped to accomplish by it. For even if White paused to defend his b-pawn, Black would still be in a very difficult position.

15.a3!



The commencement of a very fine and deep combination, by which White demonstrates the inferiority of Black's line of play commencing with b6. Superficially, it may seem obvious that Black cannot play Qxb2 without landing his queen in hopeless trouble. Actually, that is not the point at all.

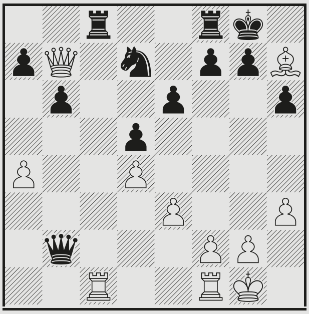
15...♕a4 After 15...♕xb2 there would be no way of catching the Black Queen. The success of White's combination would be due to the attack he could direct against Black's undeveloped pieces on the queenside, thus: 16.♖b1 ♕xa3 (best) 17.♗b5 ♕e7 *(If 17...♘f6 White wins by 18.♖a1 , etc., the Black queen having no retreat.)* 18.♘e5 *(stronger than 18.♗c6 Now it will be found that White must win at least not only the Exchange, but also one of Black's queenside Pawns; this is important, as if Black could maintain the two passed Pawns on that win, he would have fair value for the Exchange, but he cannot do so.)* If, for example 18...♕d8 *(Or 18...f6 19.♘g6 (Stronger than 19.♘xd7 ♖d8 20.♗c6 ♖xd7 21.♗xd7 ♕xd7; 19.♕c6 fxe5 20.♕xa8 ♗a6)* 19...♕d8 *(19...♕f7 20.♘xf8 ♘xf8 21.♖fc1 threatening QxQ+ followed by ♖c7+ and ♗c6.)* 20.♖fc1 ♕xc7 *(If 20...♖e8 21.♕xd8 ♖xd8 22.♘e7+ wins a piece.)* 21.♖xc7 ♖f7 22.♖bc1 ♔h7 23.♖xc8 ♖xc8 24.♖xc8 ♔xg6 25.♖c7 If knight moves, Be8.) 19.♕c6 ♘xe5 20.♕xa8 and Black must withdraw his Knight, giving up his a-pawn. for if 20...♘f3+ 21.gxf3 ♕g5+ 22.♔h1 ♕h5 23.♕b8 winning easily.

16.h3 Purposely giving Black time to move his knight, thus allowing the White Knight to establish itself at e5.

16...♘f6 17.♘e5 ♗d7 18.♗c2 ♕b5 19.a4 ♕xb2 20.♘xd7 Good enough; but, as pointed out by Capablanca after the game, 20.♖b1 would have been still more effective.

20...♖ac8 21.♕b7 ♘xd7 There is nothing better.

22.♗h7+



The culmination of a fine piece of play. White emerges with the Exchange against one pawn-a certain win, thogh the ending requires careful and accurate handling.

22...♔xh7 23.♖xc8 ♖xc8 24.♕xc8 ♘f6 25.♖c1 Getting the rook into play; and simpler than the tempting 25.♕c7 ,when, after 25...♘e4 26.♕xf7 ♘d2 , the rook would not be too well placed.

25...♕b4 26.♕c2+ So as to gain time presently by another check at a8.

26...♔g8 27.♕c6 ♕a3 28.♕a8+ ♔h7 29.♖c7 ♕xa4 30.♖xf7 ♕d1+ 31.♔h2 ♕h5 32.♕xa7 ♕g6 33.♖f8 ♕f5 Of course threatening ♘g4+, as well as attacking the f-pawn.

34.♖f7 ♕g6 35.♖b7 ♘e4 36.♕a2 e5 37.♕xd5 exd4 38.♖b8 ♘f6 39.♕xd4 ♕f5 40.♖xb6 ♕xf2 41.♕d3+ ♔g8 42.♖b8+ A splendidly played game by Capablanca.

1-0

London 1922 Openings Survey:

FROM CLASSICAL TO HYPERMODERN

BCM's GM Aleksandar Colovic takes a closer look at the opening ideas and the place the London Chess Congress of 1922 has in chess theory

The international tournament in London, held from 31 July to 18 August 1922 was Capablanca's first official event as a World Champion.

Every new champion brought something new to the game and in Capablanca's case it was a triumph of the ideal positional style, marking the pinnacle of the chess development that started with Steinitz's positional revolution.

When it came to openings, Capablanca relied on trusted and tested lines, but he was not a stranger to trying new things if he considered them worthy. In London, he mostly relied on his usual lines of the Orthodox Queen's Gambit Declined and the Steinitz Defence of the Ruy Lopez, but in the analysis below we will see him venture into more hypermodern territory on a few occasions.

Looking back 100 years it is very interesting to observe how the best players of the time treated the openings and explored lines that are popular even today. In the following paragraphs, I will describe some of the developments of the opening theory that still have relevance today.

THE HYPERMODERN RICHARD RETI

The King's Indian was not a popular opening at all in those times, but the hypermodern mind of Richard Reti employed this defence twice and with good results (and positions after the opening!) - two draws against Rubinstein and Alekhine.

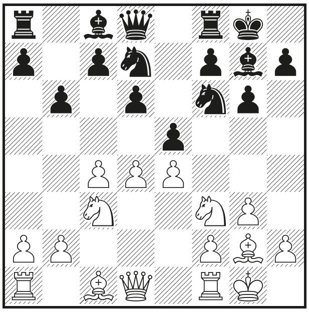
Akiba **Rubinstein** - Richard **Reti** **[E68]**

British CF–15 London International London (1), 31.07.1922

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 d6 3.c4 ♘bd7 This move-order was often used by Boleslavsky and Bronstein in 1950 as a way to avoid the Saemisch Variation (after 2.c4 d6 3.♘c3 ♘bd7).

4.♘c3 e5 5.g3 g6 Reti transposes to the King's Indian. He could have played the so-called Old Indian by developing the bishop to e7. This set-up of pawns on e5 and d6 and ♘f6, ♗e7 and ♘d7 became quite popular against 1.e4: the Hanham Defence in the Philidor Defence was often used by Nimzowitsch and is still very popular today!

6.♗g2 ♗g7 7.0-0 0-0 8.e4 b6!?



This is the most curious moment. For decades this move would have been (and was!) considered a bad positional mistake, as the common understanding was that the bishop didn't belong on b7 where it could be shut after d5. The usual moves are 8...c6, 8...exd4, 8...a6. However, only last year, the Indian prodigy Praggnanandhaa started playing this move with great results! It turns out that things are not that simple and this case is a wonderful example of "everything new is well forgotten".

9.h3 Here are examples of the modern practice based on Praggnanandhaa's games.

9.♕c2 exd4 10.♘xd4 ♗b7 11.♖e1 ♖e8 12.h3 c6 this is Black's idea - he finished development and the bishop on b7, while limited by its own pawn on c6, doesn't hinder the connection of the rooks. 13.♗e3 ♕c7 14.♖ad1 a6 15.♗f4 ♖ad8 with a tense KID position in the game: 0-1 (34) Oparin,G (2655)-Praggnanandhaa,R (2608) Chess.com INT 2021;

9.dxe5 dxe5?! it seems that taking with the knight on e5 is better, now White gets some pressure. 10.♕e2 ♗b7 11.♖d1 c6?? blundering the e5-pawn. It was an online game, after all. 12.♘xe5 White is now winning. 1-0 (57) Sadhwani,R (2545)-Praggnanandhaa,R (2608) Chess.com INT 2020; 9.♖e1 exd4 10.♘xd4 ♗b7 11.♗e3 c6 12.h3 ♕c7 13.♖c1 ♖ad8 we see the same set-up as in the game Oparin-Praggnanandhaa above. 14.♕c2 ♖fe8 15.♖cd1 a6 16.f4?! ♖e7 here 16...b5! would have shown the hidden potential of Black's position. 17.g4 h6 a difficult KID position for both sides, in the end Black won. 0-1 (37) Khademalsharieh,S (2494)-Praggnanandhaa,R (2608) chess24.com INT 2021.

9...♗b7 10.d5 ♘h5 Reti tries to organise the ...f5 push immediately.

10...♘c5 was Praggnanandhaa's choice and it is the better one. 11.♕c2 a5 12.♗e3 ♘h5 13.a3 f5 14.exf5 gxf5 with an unclear KID position where Black won in: 0-1 (27) Eljanov,P (2671)-Praggnanandhaa,R (2608) Chess.com INT 2021.

11.♘e1 ♕e8 Defending the knight on h5 so that after ...f5, exf5 gxf5 is possible.

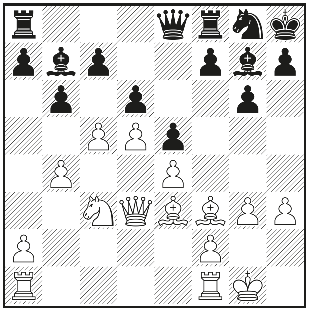
12.♗f3 Prophylactic play by Rubinstein. He forces the knight back to f6, thus preventing ...f5.

12...♘hf6 13.♗e3 ♔h8 Preparing ...♘g8 and ...f5.

14.♘d3 ♘c5 Black would like to force an exchange on c5 as after ...bxc5 he would strengthen his central grip.

15.♗g2 ♘h5 It was possible to play ...♘fd7, but Reti doesn't mind repeating moves.

16.♗f3 ♘f6 17.b4 ♘xd3 18.♕xd3 ♘g8 19.c5



19...f5 Finally pushing the typical ...f5. But White also advanced on the queenside and objectively he is better, but as typical for the KID the complexity is more important than the objective evaluation. After exciting play where the advantage changed hands more than once the game was eventually drawn.

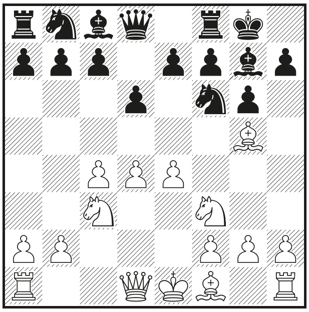
½-½

Alexander **Alekhine** - Richard **Reti [E90]**

British CF–15 London International London (13), 16.08.1922

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 g6 3.c4 ♗g7 4.♘c3 0-0 5.e4 d6 We have the standard position of the KID.

6.♗g5



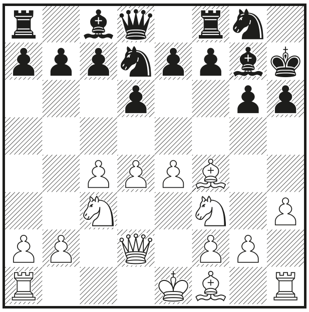
A rare choice even by today's standards, but the move is a prophylactic one against ...e5.

6...h6 6...e5?? 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.♕xd8 ♖xd8 9.♘d5 is White's idea, when he wins thanks to the pin on the h4-d8 diagonal and the attack on the c7-pawn.

7.♗f4 Alekhine still plays against the ...e5 push, but today we know that this doesn't really work.

7...♘bd7 7...♘c6 would be a move according to today's standards, targeting the d4-square.

8.♕d2 ♔h7 9.h3 ♘g8?!



Too convoluted, as the immediate 9...e5 was already possible.

9...e5! was much better, the point being that White cannot take on e5 in view of the typical 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.♘xe5? ♘xe4! when Black is better.

10.g4! But this is already modern! White advances on the kingside to limit Black's activity there, a typical development in many contemporary lines, for ex the Makagonov and the Saemisch.

10...e5 11.♗e3 exd4 12.♘xd4 ♘e5 13.♗e2 White obtained a dominating position as he can castle queenside and launch an attack on the kingside while Black is not well-placed to create any counterplay. But even from this position, Reti managed to use the inherent complexity of the KID and confuse Alekhine, eventually drawing the game.

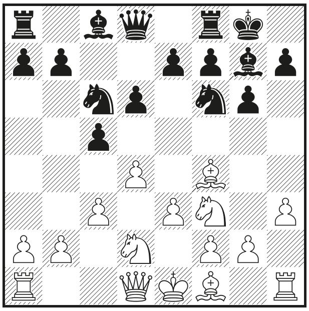
½-½

A popular choice in London was the Torre/London/Colle complex. While it was used by the weaker players like Wahltuch and Watson, it also featured in some high-level games.

Alexander **Alekhine** - Max **Euwe [A48]**

British CF–15 London International London (4), 04.08.1922

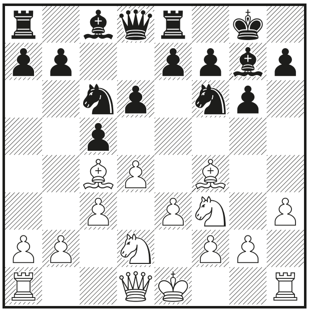
1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 g6 3.♗f4 ♗g7 4.♘bd2 c5 5.e3 d6 6.c3 ♘c6 7.h3 0-0



Quite modern development by the 4th and 5th World Champions! It has to be said however, that while Alekhine had a great tournament, finishing second behind Capablanca, Euwe had a very bad one, with eight losses, many of them marred by blunders.

8.♗c4?! This looks natural, but it unexpectedly exposes the bishop and the pawn on b2. Taking on c5 or the simple 8.♗e2 were better.

8...♖e8?!



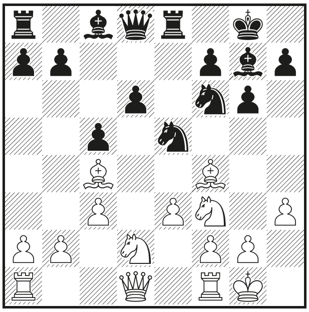
Euwe aims for ...e5, but it was better to aim for queenside activity.

8...cxd4! 9.cxd4 *(or 9.exd4 e5! 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.♘xe5 ♕e7 when Black obtains excellent play for the pawn.)* 9...♕b6 pinpoints White's problem with the pawn on b2. After 10.♗b3 *(10.♖b1? ♗f5 is the main idea behind Black's play, White cannot easily defend his pawn on b2.)* 10...♘a5 Black wins the pair of bishops and has an advantage.

9.0-0 e5?! Persisting with the plan. Here it was better to at least modify it by taking on d4 first.

9...cxd4! 10.cxd4 *(10.exd4 e5 11.dxe5 dxe5 12.♗h2 ♗h6!? also gives Black good activity.)* 10...e5 11.dxe5 dxe5 12.♗h2 ♕e7 is quite OK for Black.

10.dxe5 ♘xe5?



A positional mistake.

10...dxe5 11.♗h2 ♕e7 was better, but in view of the control over the d5-square after 12.e4 White is better.

11.♗xe5! dxe5 12.♘g5! ♗e6 13.♗xe6 fxe6 14.♘de4 With a strategically winning position that Alekhine won in exemplary style.

1-0

Jose Raul **Capablanca** - Richard **Reti [A48]**

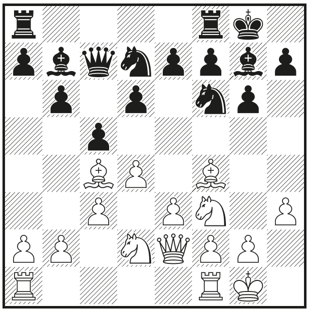
British CF–15 London International London (10), 12.08.1922

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 g6 3.h3 A rare way to prepare the London System, but White can allow himself this frivolity.

3...♗g7 4.♗f4 0-0 5.♘bd2 d6 6.e3 ♘bd7 7.c3 c5 8.♗c4 b6 9.0-0 ♗b7 Normal development by both sides, without knowing the date of the game it would have been impossible to say that it had been played 100 years ago.

10.♕e2 Preparing e4 and possibly ♗a6.

10...♕c7



Black prepares to push ...e5, but as we know today this is not always the best way to deal with the London System.

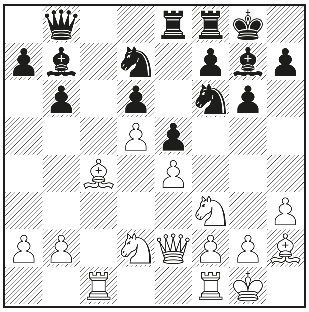
10...a6 was better, preventing ♗a6 and preparing ...b5. After 11.a4 cxd4 12.exd4 ♘d5 13.♗h2 ♘7f6 Black has a good position, his knights comfortably placed to control the centre.

11.♗h2 Prophylactically moving away from ...e5.

11...♖ae8 12.e4 cxd4?! Opening the c-file only helps White in the ensuing position.

12...e5 was better, trying to keep the position on the queenside closed in case White pushes d5. 13.dxe5 *(13.d5 ♘h5 is an acceptable KID position for Black.)* 13...♘xe5 14.♘xe5 dxe5 15.♖fd1 White is more comfortable here thanks to the better structure *(Black has a hole on d5)*, but Black's good development and control of the d5-square give him acceptable play.

13.cxd4 e5 14.♖ac1 ♕b8 15.d5



With an advantage for White whose queenside play with ♗b5-c6 is much faster than Black's play on the kingside.

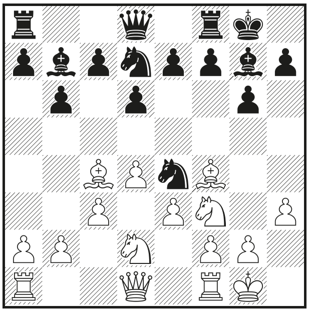
1-0

Akiba **Rubinstein** - Max **Euwe [A48]**

British CF–15 London International London (11), 13.08.1922

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 g6 3.h3 ♗g7 4.♗f4 b6 This game was played in round 11 and here we see Euwe change his approach from his game against Alekhine from round four. He employs quite a modern set-up against the London System.

5.♘bd2 ♗b7 6.e3 d6 7.c3 0-0 8.♗c4 ♘bd7 9.0-0 ♘e4



Initiating some simplifications and increasing control over the e5-square - now the bishop on g7 can support the ...e5 push.

9...♕e8!? with the idea of ...e5 was another good way to play. 10.♗h2 e5 11.a4 a6 12.b4 ♕e7 with a complex middlegame with chances for both sides as in the game: 0-1 (51) Bisguier,A (2440)-Kortschnoj,V (2670) Hastings 1976.

10.♘xe4 ♗xe4 11.♕e2 e5 12.♗h2 ♕e7 13.♖ad1 ♔h8 14.♗b5 ♖ad8 Black got a good position out of the opening, even though eventually he lost by blundering into a lost pawn endgame.

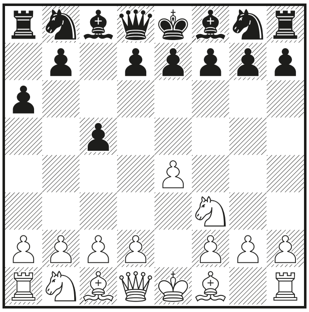
1-0

It was interesting to note the development of the Sicilian Defence, in particular the Scheveningen set-up. The Sicilian was first used by Tartakower in round two, but then it was picked up by Maroczy, Euwe and Rubinstein.

Max **Euwe** - Saviely **Tartakower** **[B41]**

British CF–15 London International London (2), 01.08.1922

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 a6



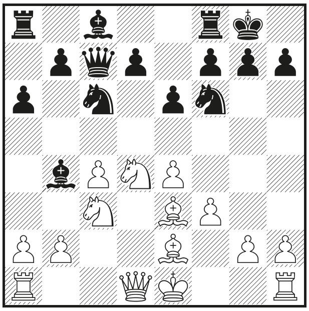
The O'Kelly Variation, very recently used on the highest level by Radjabov against Caruana in the Madrid Candidates. When we spoke at the closing ceremony Radjabov told me he looked at it quite deeply and in fact the line is not that bad.

3.c4 The most principled move, aiming for a Maroczy Bind.

3...e6 3...♘c6 was Radjabov's move. After 4.d4 cxd4 5.♘xd4 e5 6.♘f5 d5 7.cxd5 ♗xf5 8.exf5 ♘d4 9.♗d3 ♕xd5 10.♘c3 ♕d7 he got a more or less acceptable position. 1-0 (56) Caruana,F (2783)-Radjabov,T (2753) Madrid ESP 2022.

4.♘c3 ♘c6 5.d4 cxd4 6.♘xd4 ♕c7 7.♗e2 ♘f6 8.♗e3 ♗b4 9.f3 This is possible, but it allows Black to strike in the centre.

9...0-0



The immediate 9...d5 was played by Nakamura in an online game. After 10.exd5?! The move 10.♕b3 would have been a stern test for Black's idea. 10...exd5 11.0-0 dxc4 12.♗xc4 0-0 13.♘xc6 ♕xc6 14.♕b3 ♗c5 Black had a good position with no problems in the game: 0-1 (26) Hevia,A (2460)-Nakamura,H (2766) chess.com INT 2022.

10.0-0 ♗xc3 11.bxc3 d5 12.cxd5 exd5 13.♗g5 13.♘xc6!? bxc6 14.♗d4 dxe4 15.fxe4 ♘xe4 16.♗xg7! is the engine's way to destroy the shelter of Black's king, though after 16...♖d8 17.♕a4 ♕a7+ 18.♗d4 ♘xc3! 19.♗xa7 ♘xa4 White's pair of bishops is compensated with Black's extra pawn.

13...♕e5 14.f4 ♕xe4 15.♗xf6 gxf6 Led to an unclear position with good compensation for the pawn for White, but he misplayed the position and eventually lost.

0-1

Eugene **Znosko Borovsky** - Geza **Maroczy [B42]**

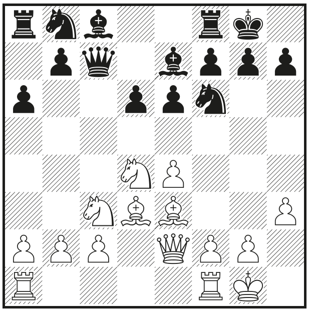
British CF–15 London International London (6), 07.08.1922

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.♘c3 a6 4.d4 cxd4 5.♘xd4 ♕c7 6.♗d3 ♘f6 7.0-0 ♗e7 Today the moves 7...♘c6 and 7...♗c5 are the most popular ones. Maroczy aims for the Scheveningen set-up.

8.♕e2 Possible, though modern theory suggests that 8.♔h1 with f4 is the most testing way to play.

8...d6 9.♗e3?! But this is already sub-optimal. The mix of a queen on e2 and a bishop on e3 is awkward in this position. The immediate 9.f4! was much better, when the bishop can be developed on d2, thus not blocking the e-file.

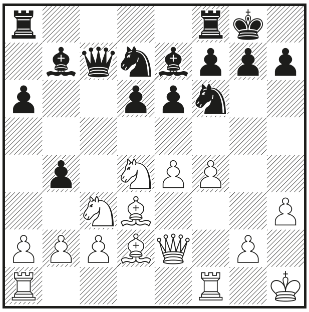
9...0-0 10.h3?



A move that indicates that this game was played 100 years ago. Today even amateur players wouldn't play this useless move - such is the advance in chess knowledge for one century. Natural moves would be 10.f4 or 10.a4.

10...♘bd7 11.f4 b5 12.♔h1 ♗b7 And by playing natural moves Black is better. A typical scenario in the Sicilian when White plays without a clear plan and is not aggressive enough.

13.♗d2 b4!



Maroczy's play is exemplary. He chases away the knight from c3 that is vital for control of the centre.

14.♘d1 ♘c5 15.♘f2 d5 The engine doesn't approve of this, preferring 15...♕b6 or 15...a5, but it is a typical reaction for Black - he pushes ...d5 and lands a knight on e4.

16.e5 ♘fe4 17.♗xe4?! White aims for control over the dark squares, but after

17.♘xe4 ♘xe4 18.♔h2 was better, though Black is clearly very comfortable here, for example 18...♕b6 with ...a5 to come.

17...♘xe4 18.♘xe4 dxe4 19.♗e3 ♗d5 Black is simply better - he has the pair of bishops and play on the queenside. Black won in 43 moves.

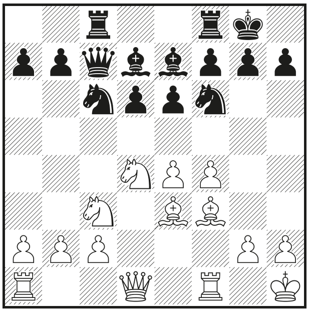
0-1

Eugene **Znosko Borovsky** - Max **Euwe** [B83]

British CF–15 London International London (7), 08.08.1922

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 d6 6.♗e2 e6 It's worth noting that the players saw Maroczy's dominant performance against Znosko-Borovsky in the previous round and started using the Sicilian against him! Here Euwe goes for the Scheveningen directly.

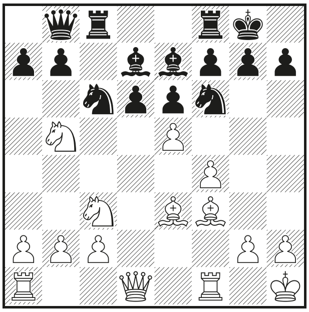
7.0-0 ♗e7 8.♔h1 0-0 9.♗e3 ♗d7 10.f4 ♕c7 11.♗f3 ♖ac8



Black avoids the ...a6 move, a possible way to play, but he gains big dividends by provoking White into the following incorrect pawn sacrifice.

12.♘db5 12.♘b3 would be a typical move today, avoiding the exchange on d4.

12...♕b8 13.e5?



It's difficult to say what White's idea was. Black simply collects the pawn.

13.a4 was better, to stop Black's queenside expansion after ...a6 and ...b5.

13...dxe5 14.fxe5 ♕xe5 15.♖e1 ♕b8 16.♕d2 ♖fd8 White has nothing for the pawn and is just lost. But as it happened too many times to Euwe in London, he again blundered badly and even lost.

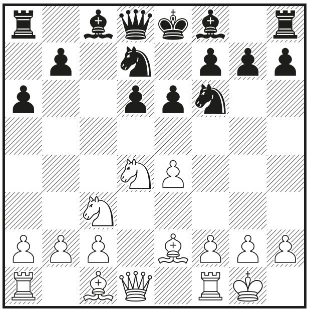
1-0

Eugene **Znosko Borovsky** - Akiba **Rubinstein [B84]**

British CF–15 London International London (8), 10.08.1922

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 d6 6.♗e2 a6 The Scheveningen is on the board again. In spite of scoring 1 out of 2 Znosko-Borovsky's play against the Sicilian in the previous two games was far from perfect, so Rubinstein repeats the opening even though he usually played 1... e5 almost always.

7.0-0 ♘bd7?!



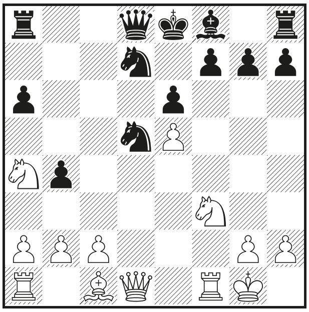
Rubinstein goes for the development of the knight on d7, just like Maroczy. This is considered imprecise today, the main moves being 7...♗e7 or 7...♘c6.

8.f4 b5 9.♗f3 ♗b7 10.e5! This time White plays the best moves.

10...♗xf3 11.♘xf3 b4 12.♘a4? But here he errs.

12.exf6! bxc3 13.fxg7 ♗xg7 14.b3 gave White an advantage in view of the vulnerability of Black's centre and lack of safe shelter for the king.

12...dxe5 13.fxe5 ♘d5



Now Black is simply better - he has a dominating knight on d5 and can safely finish the development of the kingside and castle. White only has problems with the stranded knight on a4 and the weak pawn on e5.

14.♔h1 ♗e7 15.♗d2 0-0 16.c4 bxc3 17.♘xc3 ♘xc3 18.♗xc3 ♘b6 Black has a clear advantage as White has no compensation for the weak pawn on d5 and has the worse light pieces. Rubinstein's technique brought him a winning position, but he misplayed it and allowed White to save the game.

½-½

Efim **Bogoljubow** - Akiba **Rubinstein [B43]**

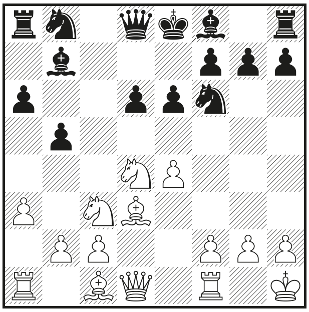
British CF–15 London International London (10), 12.08.1922

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.♘c3 a6 4.d4 cxd4 5.♘xd4 b5 In his next game with the black pieces Rubinstein repeats the Sicilian, only this time going for the Kan Variation.

6.♗d3 ♗b7 7.0-0 Today the moves 7...♘c6 and 7...♕c7 are the most popular ones.

7...d6 8.♔h1 Possible, but modern theory likes the immediate attack of Black's advanced queenside with 8.a4!

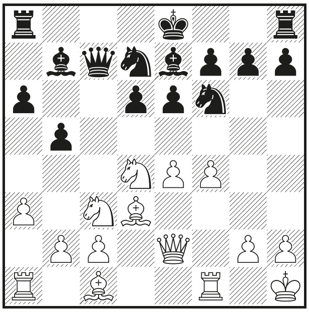
8...♘f6 9.a3?



Even the strongest players of the time didn't know how to play the novel opening as the Sicilian was in those times. This move is easy to make but is out of place here. White had to either start an immediate attack in the centre with f4 or prepare an attack the queenside with a4, for example by playing ♕e2 first (defending the pawn on e4).

9...♘bd7 Now Black is in time to finish development and obtain easy play.

10.f4 ♗e7 11.♕e2 ♕c7



A superfluous move for modern standards. It was better to castle and start central activity faster, for example, 11...0-0 and 12...♘c5 next.

12.♗d2 0-0 13.♖f3 A good move.

13.b4!? is another modern approach. White fixes the pawn on b5 and will continue with a4 next, attacking it.

13...♘c5?! Rubinstein goes for Maroczy's idea of ...d5 and ...♘e4, but here White is better prepared to face it.

13...g6 14.♖af1 ♖ae8 was preferable, but this is obviously an advanced approach - Black is getting ready for the opening of the e-file after f5 exf5 as he will drop the bishop back to d8.

14.♖g3 Putting the rook on h3 was even stronger.

14...d5? Persisting with the plan, but wrong.

14...g6 again was preferable.

15.e5 ♘fe4 16.♗xe4 ♘xe4 17.♘xe4 dxe4 18.♗c3 White prepares f5, but it was much stronger to play that move immediately.

18.f5! would have given White an irresistible attack. Black cannot take on e5 in view of 18...♕xe5 19.♗c3! and a catastrophe awaits on g7.

18...♖fe8 19.f5 ♗f8 20.♖f1 White has a strong attack which should have been a winning one.

½-½

* * *

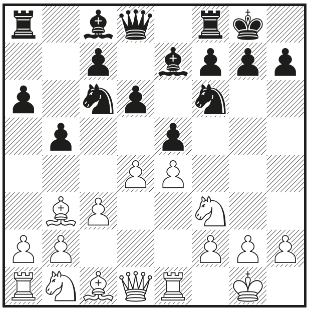
To finish this opening survey, let's go back to Capablanca. The following example is an indicative one which shows that Capablanca was very carefully observing what the other players were doing in the opening and if he thought the ideas were sound enough, he was not against using them.

In round four the game Yates-Bogoljubow saw White use what is today known as the Yates Variation in the Ruy Lopez.

Frederick Dewhurst **Yates** - Efim **Bogoljubow [C91]**

British CF–15 London International London (4), 04.08.1922

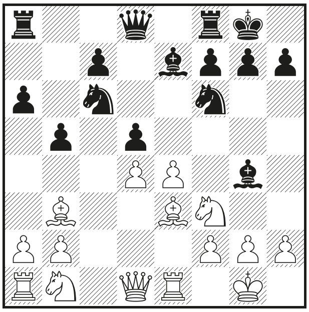
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♗e7 6.♖e1 b5 7.♗b3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.d4



This is the Yates Variation. White implies that he can advance in the centre without fear of the pin on the d1-h5 diagonal.

9...exd4 9...♗g4 is the automatic move today, as there is no need for Black to resolve the tension in the centre too early.

10.cxd4 ♗g4 11.♗e3 d5



One of the main continuations even today. In the next game Bogoljubow went for the equally popular alternative, possibly fearing an improvement by Capablanca.

12.e5 ♘e4 13.♘c3 ♗b4?! 13...♘xc3 14.bxc3 and now either 14...♘a5 or 14...♕d7 are the theoretical ways today.

14.♖c1? 14.h3 ♗h5 15.♘xd5! is the refutation of Black's play. After 15...♗xe1 16.♕xe1 ♗xf3 17.gxf3 ♘g5 18.♔g2 White has a big advantage thanks to the avalanche of pawns in the centre and the strong pair of bishops (the one on b3 being particularly potent).

14...♘e7? 14...♗xc3! 15.bxc3 ♘a5 gives Black good play.

15.h3 ♗h5 16.♗c2 ♗xc3 17.bxc3 f5 18.exf6 ♖xf6 19.g4 ♗g6 20.♘e5 With a solid advantage to White.

1-0

Two rounds later, in his next game with the black pieces, Bogoljubow had to face the same variation against the World Champion.

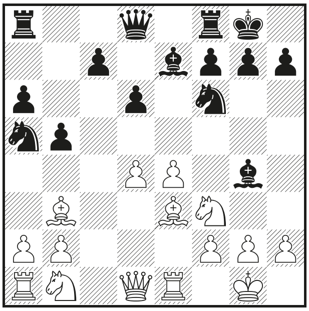
Jose Raul **Capablanca** – Efim **Bogoljubow [C91]**

British CF–15 London International London (6), 07.08.1922

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♗e7 6.♖e1 b5 7.♗b3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.d4 Capablanca liked what he saw in the previous game and is willing to repeat the variation.

9...exd4 Bogoljubow sticks to the same move-order as in the game with Yates.

10.cxd4 ♗g4 11.♗e3 ♘a5



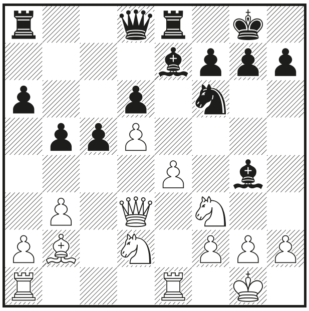
Bogoljubow changes the line.

12.♗c2 ♘c4 13.♗c1 c5 14.b3 ♘a5 15.♗b2?! This allows Black to achieve good play.

Fischer famously improved on Capablanca's play with 15.d5! ♘d7 16.♘bd2 ♗f6 17.♖b1 and won a crucial game at the Stockholm Interzonal, 1-0 (44) Fischer,R-Kortschnoj,V Stockholm 1962.

15...♘c6?! 15...cxd4! 16.♗xd4 ♘c6 17.♗b2 ♖c8 is very comfortable for Black as his piece activity is difficult to tame - he has ideas like ...♘b4, ...♘e5, ...♘d7, ...d5 etc.

16.d5 ♘b4 17.♘bd2 ♘xc2 18.♕xc2 ♖e8 19.♕d3

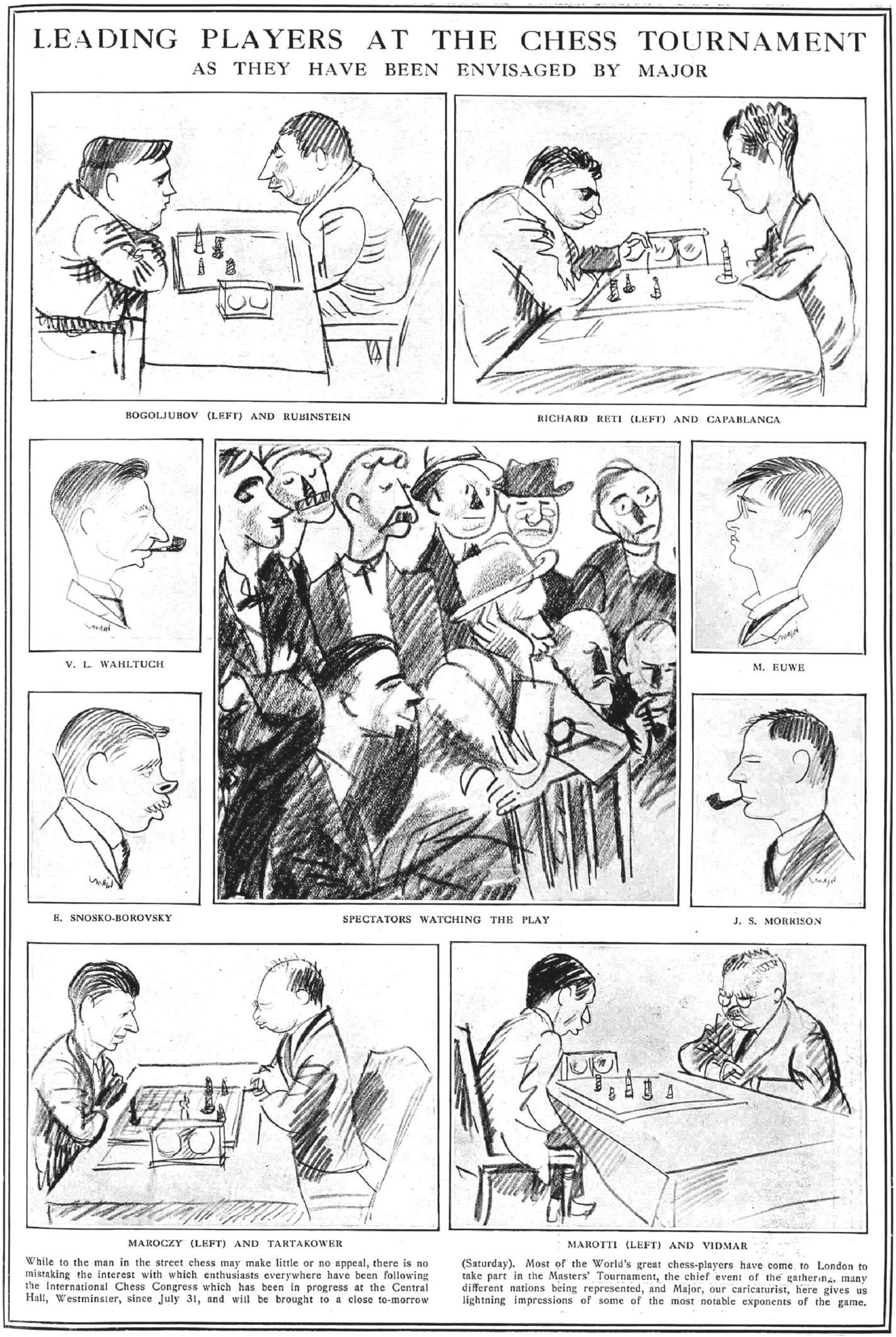


The position is unclear now, with chances for both sides, but soon enough Capablanca managed to immure Black's bishop after

19...h6 20.♘f1 ♘d7 21.h3 ♗h5 22.♘3d2 ♗f6 23.♗xf6 ♕xf6 24.a4 c4 25.bxc4 ♘c5 26.♕e3 bxa4 27.f4! ♕e7 28.g4! ♗g6 29.f5 And won a classical game.

1-0

It was challenging for the players of those times to correctly play difficult openings like the Sicilian and the King's Indian, but we could see that on some occasions they managed to show an understanding of chess that surpassed the limits of their age.



LEADING PLAYERS AT THE CHESS TOURNAMENT

AS THEY HAVE BEEN ENVISAGED BY MAJOR

BOGOLJUBOV (LEFT) AND RUBINSTEIN

RICHARD RETI (LEFT) AND CAPABLANCA

V. L. WAHLTUCH

M. EUWE

E. SNOSKO-BOROVSKY

SPECTATORS WATCHING THE PLAY

J. S. MORRISON

MAROCZY (LEFT) AND TARTAKOWER

MAROTTI (LEFT) AND VIDMAR

While to the man in the street chess may make little or no appeal, there is no mistaking the interest with which enthusiasts everywhere have been following the International Chess Congress which has been in progress at the Central Hall, Westminster, since July 31, and will be brought to a close to-morrow (Saturday). Most of the World's great chess-players have come to London to take part in the Masters' Tournament, the chief event of the gathering, many different nations being represented, and Major, our caricaturist, here gives us lightning impressions of some of the most notable exponents of the game.

Source: British Newspaper Archive - The Graphic, 19 August 1922

Openings for Amateurs

by Pete Tamburro; ptamburro@aol.com

The Debut of the London System at The London International Chess Congress

Although chess opening researchers will tell you the early days of the London System took place back in the 1880s with James Mason and Joseph Blackburne, London 1922 was the real coming out party for this system. Players were looking for alternatives to the regular Queen's Gambit Declined. What we know as the Colle-Zukertort made its appearance in this tournament in that regard; however, the belle of the ball was the London System with h3. The old-timers didn't care as much as the modern players with the modernist love of the two bishops. When Alekhine beat Euwe with it early on, players took notice. Capablanca used it after that to beat Reti and Rubinstein took apart poor Euwe. Then, everyone took notice! This particular game was noteworthy because the competing plans and alternate plans are still valid today for productive study. The endgame also has several wonderful lessons worthy of study. Enjoy!

Alexander **Alekhine** - Max **Euwe [A48]**

London (4), 1922

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 g6 3.♗f4 Capablanca, against Reti in Round Nine, wasted no time in reserving a spot for the bishop on h2: 3.h3 ♗g7 4.♗f4 0-0 5.♘bd2 d6 6.e3 ♘bd7 7.c3 c5 8.♗c4 b6 9.0-0 ♗b7 with a slight edge for Capa, which he carried to victory. This was actually Reti playing the Reti System from the Black side. Imagine spotting Capa the odds of the move!

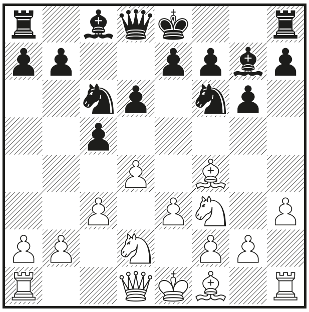
3...♗g7 4.♘bd2 c5 Perfectly acceptable was 4...d6 5.e4 0-0 and now if White gets too ambitious things can turn quickly: 6.c4 e5 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.♗xe5 ♖e8 9.♗e2 ♘c6 10.♗c3 ♘xe4 11.♗xg7 ♔xg7 12.♘xe4 ♕xd1+ 13.♖xd1 ♖xe4∓ Euwe's move is sharp and logical. He uses the power of his king bishop to hit the White centre pawn.

5.e3 Black will get the pawn back with 5.dxc5 ♘a6 and it can get interesting: 6.e4 ♘xc5 7.e5 ♘h5 8.♗e3 ♘e6 (which allows ♘h5-g4 if White plays g4) 9.♘e4 b6 10.♕d2 ♕c7 and now the pawn move to hit the knight doesn't work - 11.g4 ♗b7 and wins.

5...d6 Black could exchange or castle, but he has plans to support an e5 thrust against the bishop on f4. When the London System started to experience a resurgence a few years back, a good many strong players advocated the King's Indian approach for this very reason - with or without c5.

6.c3 ♘c6!? A bit of routine development on Euwe's part. Today, it would not be unusual for Black to go for the two bishops with 6...♘h5 7.dxc5 ♘xf4 8.exf4 dxc5 9.g3 ♘c6 10.♗g2 , although the position has no other advantage to speak of.

7.h3

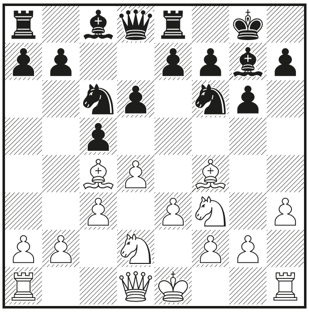


Alekhine decides not to take any more chances with the preservation of the bishop. Now we have a modern London System tabiya we are familiar with, and it makes its first appearance in the London tournament.

7...0-0!? Also possible, perhaps preferable, is 7...cxd4 8.cxd4 0-0 where Black has a Dragon set-up and possibilities of counterplay with ♕b6 or ♕a5. It's not exactly clear what White has in terms of a plan other than meet Black's activity to maintain equality. Both the e-pawn and d-pawn are passively placed. The knight on d2 would be better on c3 and White still isn't castled, in part thanks to h3 being advisable.

8.♗c4 Alekhine probably didn't like the position after 8.dxc5 dxc5 9.♕c2 where Black would not play 9...e5 *(but go with 9...♕e8 10.♗h2 e5 11.e4 ♕e7 and it's unclear what progress could be made.)* With the e5 move by Black, White could play 10.♘xe5 ♘xe5 11.♗xe5 ♗f5 12.♗xf6 ♗xc2 13.♗xd8 ♖axd8 14.♗e2 and White is a pawn up.

8...♖e8



Again, 8...cxd4 would be worth taking a look at. Either recapture pretty much stifles White from pursuing some active plan and the Dragon formation is ideally suited for this position. Euwe's ♖e8 means he's been working toward this e5 plan as we mentioned earlier. However, do you see a possible flaw in Euwe's plan? It's possible Alekhine did and thus avoided the pawn exchanges. Take a moment with the position. See if you can figure it out.

9.0-0 Alekhine avoids the pawn exchange again, and with justification. He wants to keep pieces on the board. White will get a minimal and, indeed short lived edge if he tries the exchange. 9.dxc5 dxc5 10.♘g5 ♖f8 11.0-0 h6 12.♘gf3 ♗f5 13.♖e1 g5 14.♗h2 ♘e4 15.♘xe4 ♕xd1 16.♖axd1 ♗xe4 17.♗d5 ♗xd5 18.♖xd5 b6 19.♖ed1 and the doubled rooks will disappear on d8 or d1 when a Black rook takes up a post on the d-file.

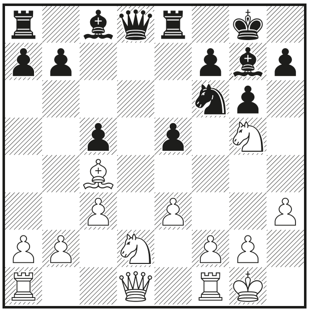
9...e5 this is the position Euwe played for, which is in keeping with the "hit the ♗f4" theme.

10.dxe5 Virtually forced as most other moves result in Black getting e4 in.

10...♘xe5? All that planning and he takes with the wrong soldier! 10...dxe5 11.♗h2 ♕e7 and Black is solid, although White retains some slight advantage because he has quite a few options in e4 or a4 or ♕c2.

11.♗xe5 He keeps the knight to threaten f7.

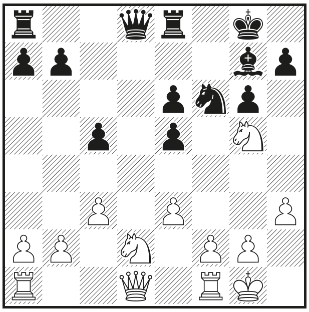
11...dxe5 12.♘g5!



A sharp, nasty move that highlights the one key flaw in Euwe's plan. The Re8 leaves f7 only defended by the king. White can work up a nice initiative in conjunction with ♘de4, thus justifying the entire London System set-up.

12...♗e6 If, as the tournament book suggested, 12...♖f8 White can work up a winning attack: 13.♘de4 ♕xd1 14.♖fxd1 ♘xe4 *(Not 14...h6 15.♘xf7 ♖xf7 16.♖d8+ wins.)* 15.♘xe4 b6 16.♘d6 a5 17.a4 ♖a7 18.♘xc8 ♖xc8 19.♖d6 with a decisive advantage.

13.♗xe6 fxe6



Ah, the key structural weakness appears. Alekhine displays commendable technique. The doubled pawns are not only a headache in and of themselves, but, as the tournament book points out, the bishop has no good squares to go to. Thus, White will have a superior knight and better pawn structure. The first step in the winning plan will be to get rid of the heavy pieces.

14.♘de4 ♘xe4 If 14...♕e7 , to avoid the queen exchange, 15.♘xf6+ ♗xf6 16.♘e4 and the Ne4 is unassailable while White can hit either the queenside or force his way along the d-file. Black is lost.

15.♕xd8 Also good is 15.♘xe4 ♕h4 16.♕c2.

15...♖exd8 16.♘xe4 b6 17.♖fd1 Step One is complete. The knight reigns supreme on e4.

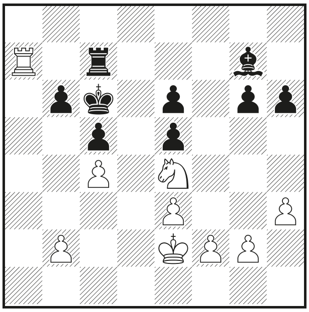
17...♔f8 18.♔f1 ♔e7 19.c4 h6 20.♔e2 ♖xd1 21.♖xd1 Step Two complete - first pair of rooks gone. An added bonus of having the knight on e4 makes itself felt: the knight's control and/or occupation of d6. This is a nightmare for the Indian bishop, which had such early dreams in this game.

21...♖b8 22.♖d3 Step Three will require a little work. How do you get rid of that other Black rook? Black is not cooperating by defending the d-file, but there are other ways to infiltrate the position - ROOK LIFT!!

22...♗h8 23.a4 ♖c8 24.♖b3 ♔d7 25.a5 ♔c6 26.axb6 Opening up another avenue for infiltration. Black can't defend them all. I hope you're taking notes!

26...axb6 27.♖a3 ♗g7 What a sad state of affairs as the bishop has just made aimless moves for lack of anything better to do.

28.♖a7 ♖c7



29.♖a8 Alekhine could have concluded Step Four with the rook exchange. There's a very deliberate endgame win which we give here to demonstrate, but my best guess is that he felt he could still do a lot of damage with the more active rook, so he amends his plan. We can all learn to re-evaluate as we go along. 29.♖xc7+ ♔xc7 30.♔d3 ♔c6 31.♘c3 ♗f6 32.♔e4 ♔d6 33.♘b5+ ♔c6 34.b3 ♗g7 35.♘a3 ♔d6 36.♘c2 ♗f6 37.♘e1 ♗g7 38.♘f3 ♗f6 39.♘h2 h5 40.♘f3 h4 41.g3 hxg3 42.fxg3 g5 43.h4 gxh4 44.gxh4.

29...♖e7 30.♖c8+ Just to get the king away from the b6 pawn.

30...♔d7 It would end very quickly after 30...♔b7 31.♘d6+ ♔a6 32.♖a8+ ♖a7 33.♖e8.

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31.♖g8 Now the bishop has no moves.

31...♔c6 32.h4 Using the more active rook to paralyze Black's pieces, Alekhine now squeezes the Black kingside.

32...♔c7 Alekhine wants his knight on c3, but he keeps it on e4 for a while as his kingside pawns advance, thus, though it looks like he's a little adrift in the next few moves, he has a plan, as will become apparent.

33.g4 ♔c6 34.♔d3 ♖d7+ 35.♔c3 ♖f7 36.b3 ♔c7 37.♔d3 ♖d7+ 38.♔e2 ♖f7 39.♘c3 ♖e7 40.g5 hxg5 41.hxg5 ♔c6 42.♔d3 Now the king can take over duties on e4.

42...♖d7+ 43.♔e4 ♖b7 44.♘b5 ♖e7 It's hard to decide whether the rook or bishop has a more woeful countenance.

45.f3 ♔d7 46.♖b8 ♔c6 47.♖c8+ ♔d7 48.♖c7+ ♔d8 49.♖c6 The final triumph of the active rook with the knight's able assistance. A pawn, followed by another pawn, will be leaving the board.

49...♖b7 50.♖xe6

1-0

OK, the future world champ has had enough. This was an auspicious beginning for the London System that we are familiar with today. Dr. Lasker, at NY 1924, would play it from the black side to beat Reti and his system. It's all a long way from Mason and Blackburne, and Cyrus Lakdawala's "Play the London System" has been a popular tome for an increasing number of London System fans.

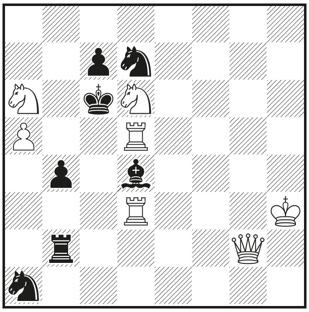
Certainly a King's Indian formation is worthy of consideration for Black, but, as we saw, Black has to be careful. The Gruenfeld is another perfectly good defence. As we showed earlier in this column, even Nimzo-Indian players can come up with a good system. Dutch players will be OK with the London as well, and playing on line has taught me that a good many amateurs just follow the London move order without regard for what challenges the Dutch can present. Having said all that, a player who has closely studied Lakdawala's book will make a good show for the White side. Again, it comes down to preparation and understanding why you are playing the moves you are.

CHESS PROBLEMS from over a century ago

By Chris Jones

Ed. Note: Chess Pie had 28 compositions and 28 'Biographies and Favourite Problem of the World's Most Famous Problem Composers.' Brian Harley conducted the problem section, which also included photo portraits of the composers. We asked our problemist Chris Jones to pick out some of the best of the best. Here's his selection:

'Mutates' were a popular form of two-move chess problem a century ago.



P.H.Williams

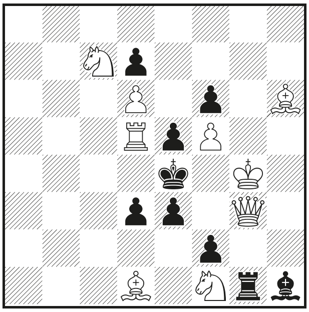
Morning Post 1920

MATE IN 2

Black is in zugzwang. The b2 rook has to stay on that square in order to prevent both 2.♘xb4 and also moves by the d5 rook that require the response ...♖x♕. Any move of the d4 bishop opens the line d3-d6 and so allows 2.♖c5, double check and mate. All black moves fail. But what can White, to move, play? The answer turns out to be 1.♖e3!. After this move, 2.♖c5 will no longer work after bishop moves because the rook is no longer guarding d6 from d3; but now instead the line d5-d2 has been opened, and after any move of the black bishop 2.♖d2 both opens the line g2-c6 and closes the line b2-g2.

Note that now 1...♖b3 is met not by 2.♖c5 but by 2.♖xd4!, maintaining the guard on d6. That's why the key can't be 1.♖g3, because then we'd have 1...♖b3 2.♖xd4+ ♖f3!.

This *mutating* of mating moves between the play from the diagram position (the 'set play') and the actual play (after the key move) can be combined with other effects, as in the following example:



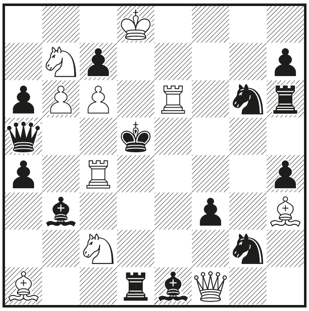
L.S.Penrose

The Observer, 1920

MATE IN 2

In the diagram position, 1...♖g2 is met by 2.♗f3 and 1...♗g2 by 2.♕xe3 - a 'Grimshaw interference', as the two black line pieces mutually interfere on g2. That interference is exploited differently after the key 1.♔h5!, which unpins the white queen but removes the guard on the flight square f5: 1...♖g2 2.♕f3 and 1...♗g2 2.♕g4. The key is again one that creates no threat, but puts Black in zugzwang.

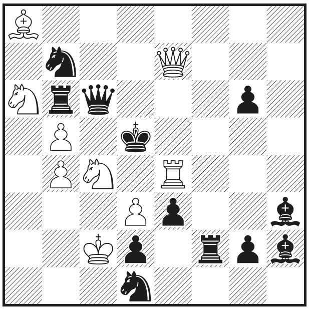
Spectacular keys were also in vogue!



A.J.Fink

Pittsburg Gazette Times 1914

MATE IN 2



A.Ellerman

1st Prize, Good Companions 1919

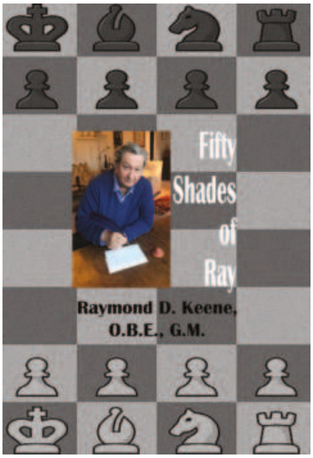
MATE IN 2

The spectacular key here is 1.♖e2!!, threatening 2.♗e6. Among the star variations are 1…♕xc4+ 2.♖d2 and 1…fxe2 2.♕f7.

The final example shows a profusion of mates, relying in many cases on the closing of lines of defence:

After 1.♖g4!, threatening 2.♕se4, there are defences 1…♘c3 2.♘xe3; 1…♖f4 2.♕e5; 1…♗e5 2.♕xe5; 1…♕e8 2.♘b6; 1.♕xc4+ 2.dxc4; 1…♕e6 2.♕c5; 1…♘c5 2.♘xb6 and 1…♘d6 2.♘c7. Good use is made of the ‘half-pin’ of the black officers on b7 and c6 (a fruitful area of exploration for composers to this day); and, in keeping with the concentration on the closing of lines, it may be noted that 1.♖f4? would fail to 2.♗e6!.

Hardinge Simpole



is delighted to announce
the publication of

Fifty Shades of Ray

Chess in the year of the Coronavirus Pandemic

Raymond D. Keene

With an Introduction by CJ de Mooi

World Senior Teams

A **remarkable hat-trick** from England

By IM Shaun Taulbut; Photo: English Chess Federation

A remarkable success with England winning three world titles: the over 50 Men, the over 50 Women and the over 65 Men. The team placings in the over 50 Open were as follows with England 1 first on 17 Points, England 2 6th with 11 points and the England Women on 9 points.

England 1 comprised Adams with 7/8, Short with 6.5/9, Hebden with 6.5/8, Emms 3.5/6 and Arkell 4/5. England 2 comprised Flear with 5.5/9, Dishman 2.5/6, Duncan 3/8, Granat 5.5/7 and Frostick 3.5/6. England Women comprised Jackson 2.5/8, Lauterbach 4.5/8, Regan 3/8 and Fink-Nunn 3.5/8.

England 1 were able to field Michael Adams and Nigel Short, making the team very strong, and this was possible because of the financial support.

Thanks are due to the following for their generous support towards this event - the English Chess Federation, The Chess Trust, the Friends of Chess and numerous individuals, including many of the players, with specific thanks to Nigel Povah, Stewart Reuben, Nigel White, Natasha Regan and Chris Gant for their generous donations.

USA were also very strong because of their ex-Russians and the individual match England v USA was a 2-2 draw.

WORLD SENIOR TEAMS +50 ACQUI TERME ITA MON 20TH JUN 2022 - WED 29TH JUN 2022
Leading Final Round 9 Standings:

Rk	SNo	Team	+	-	=	TB1	TB2	TB3
1	1	England 1	8	0	1	17	27.5	0
2	2	USA	7	0	2	16	24.5	0
3	5	Italia 1	7	2	0	14	25	0
4	4	Iceland	6	3	0	12	21.5	0
5	6	Hungary	5	3	1	11	22	0
6	8	England 2	5	3	1	11	20	0
7	9	Canada	5	4	0	10	19.5	0
8	10	Still active NL	5	4	0	10	19	0
9	11	Scotland	4	3	2	10	18	0
10	3	Georgia Winery Khareba	4	4	1	9	21	0
11	7	Germany 1	4	4	1	9	17.5	0
12	16	Wales Silures	3	3	3	9	16.5	0
13	17	England 1W	3	4	1	9	15.5	0
14	12	Oslo Schakselskap	4	4	1	9	15.5	0
15	20	Polish Amateurs	2	4	2	8	18.5	0
16	15	Sweden	2	3	4	8	18	0
17	18	England 3	3	5	0	8	16.5	0
18	13	USA 5 Brothers	2	4	2	8	16	0
19	19	Italy Asti Sempre Uniti	2	5	1	7	13	0
20	14	Ireland	1	5	2	6	14	0
21	21	England 4	2	6	0	6	12	0
22	23	Wales Cymru	0	5	3	5	11.5	0
23	22	Italia Acqui Terme	0	6	2	4	11.5	0

England seniors, from left to right: John Emms with the trophy, Mark Hebden, Michael Adams, Nigel Short and Keith Arkell

In the over 65 England 1 won with 15 points and England 2 scored 8 points. England 1 comprised Nunn 6.5/8, Littlewood 6.5/9, Stebbings 3.5/6, Povah 3/6 and Snape 4.5/7. Nunn scored 6.5/7 in the actual games but did not play one and was given a default; England won the match v Switzerland 3-1 by default; three Swiss players had Covid.

England 2 comprised Page 4/8, James 3.5/9, Bowmer 5/7, Reuben 1/5 and Wood 5.5/8.

WORLD SENIOR TEAMS +65 ACQUI TERME ITA MON 20TH JUN 2022 - WED 29TH JUN 2022
Leading Final Round 9 Standings:

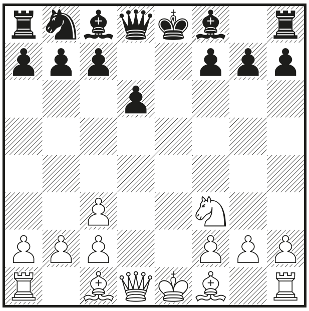
Rk	SNo	Team	Gms	+	-	=	TB1	TB2
1	2	England 1	9	7	1	1	15	24
2	3	Germany 1	9	6	2	1	13	20.5
3	1	Israel 1	9	6	3	0	12	20.5
4	5	Germany 2	9	5	2	2	12	21.5
5	4	France	9	5	2	2	12	20.5
6	6	Hungary	9	5	3	1	11	20.5
7	11	Skakklubben af 2012	9	4	3	2	10	21.5
8	7	SC Kreuzberg	9	5	4	0	10	18.5
9	13	SG Riehen	9	4	3	2	10	18
10	9	Israel 2	9	4	4	1	9	20
11	8	Switzerland	9	3	3	3	9	19.5
12	10	Steiermark	9	4	4	1	9	17
13	12	England 2	9	3	4	2	8	19
14	16	Skvat	9	3	4	2	8	17.5
15	17	Latvia Women	9	3	4	2	8	14.5
16	14	Rochade Bielefeld	9	1	3	5	7	17.5
17	15	Germany Women	9	3	5	1	7	15
18	19	Italia Alessandria	9	2	6	1	5	13
19	18	Golden Oldies	9	0	6	3	3	11
20	20	Ireland	9	0	7	2	2	8.5

Some of the games from the England Winners starting with an excellent win by Michael Adams

Michael **Adams** – Zurab **Sturua**

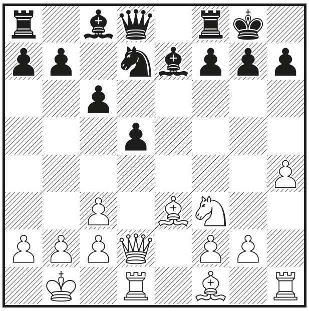
World Senior Teams +50 Acqui Terme ITA (8.2)

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.♘xe5 d6 4.♘f3 ♘xe4 5.♘c3 ♘xc3 6.dxc3



This line often leads to White castling queenside and playing for a kingside attack.

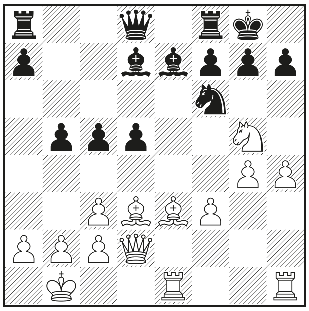
6...♗e7 7.♗e3 ♘d7 8.♕d2 0-0 9.0-0-0 c6 10.♔b1 d5 11.h4



White takes aim at the black king and this move often allows White to sacrifice a piece on g5, ignoring the attack on the knight by...h6.

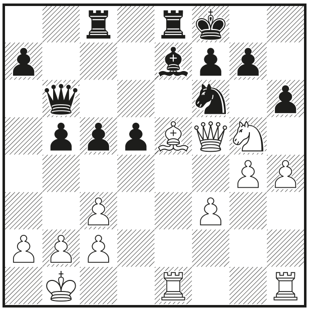
11...♘f6 12.♗d3 ♗g4 13.♖de1 c5 14.♘g5 Also playable is 14.♘e5 ♗e6 15.f3 *(15.h5 c4 16.♗xh7+ ♔xh7 17.h6 g6 is satisfactory for Black)* when Black should counter with 15...♕c7 16.♗f4 ♗d6 17.h5 ♘d7.

14...b5 15.f3 ♗d7 16.g4



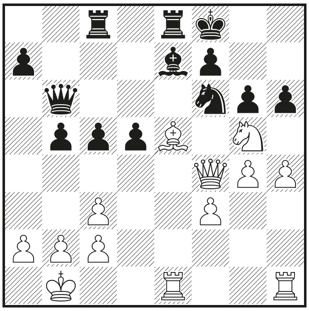
The critical position; Black must try..c4 to dislodge the white king's bishop.

16...♖c8 17.♗f4 ♖e8 18.♗e5 h6 19.♕f4 ♕b6 20.♗h7+ ♔f8 21.♗f5 ♗xf5 22.♕xf5



White has a big edge now as it is difficult for Black to defend the kingside.

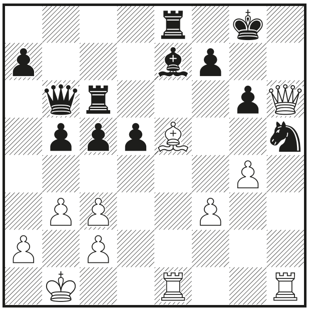
22...g6 23.♕f4



23...♔g8 If Black captures on g5 23...hxg5 24.hxg5 ♘g8 25.♗g7+ ♔xg7 26.♖h7+ ♔xh7 27.♕xf7+ ♔h8 28.♖h1+ ♘h6 29.♖xh6 is mate.

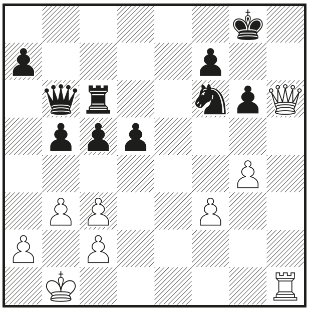
24.b3 Also good are 24.♘xf7 ♔xf7 25.g5 h5 26.♖e3 or 24.♘h3 ♔h7 *(24...h5 25.♘g5)* 25.g5 but the moved played gives the white king a flight square.

24...♖c6 25.h5 hxg5 26.♕xg5 ♘xh5 27.♕h6

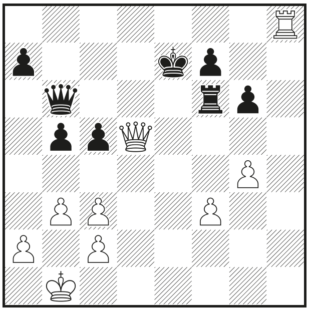


White has sacrificed a piece but Black must return it to avoid mate.

27...♗f6 28.♗xf6 ♖xe1+ 29.♖xe1 ♘xf6 30.♖h1



30...♘h7 31.♕xh7+ ♔f8 32.♕h6+ ♔e8 33.♕g5 ♖d6 34.♕e5+ ♖e6 35.♖h8+ ♔e7 36.♕g5+ ♖f6 37.♕xd5



White has won a pawn but the black king is still very exposed.

37...b4 38.♖c8 bxc3 39.♕e5+ ♖e6 40.♕xc3 ♖c6 41.♕e5+

1-0

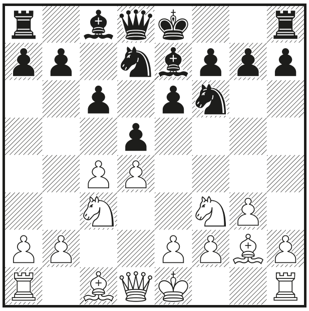
Black must lose another pawn; the one on c5 is falling, so Black resigned

Now a powerful win by Nigel Short.

Nigel **Short** – Victor **Plotkin**

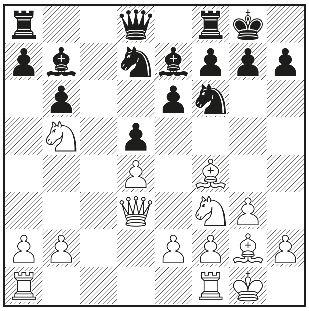
World Senior Teams +50 Acqui Terme ITA (9.1)

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.d4 d5 3.c4 e6 4.♘c3 c6 5.g3 ♘bd7 6.♗g2 ♗e7



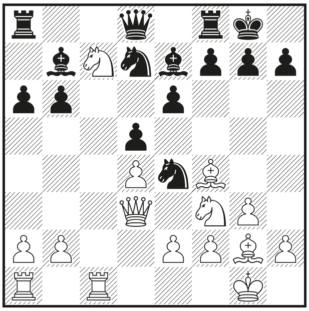
7.0-0 0-0 8.♕d3 b6 With the plan of ...♗a6 but White exchanges to prevent the pin.

9.cxd5 cxd5 10.♗f4 ♗b7 11.♘b5



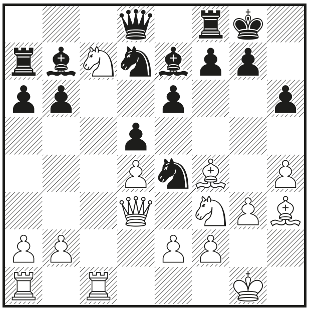
11...♘e4 Perhaps best is 11...♗a6 12.a4.

12.♖fc1 a6 13.♘c7



A forcing move as Black must play his rook to a7 to defend the pawn on a6 but the white knight has no good retreat.

13...♖a7 14.h4 h6 15.♗h3

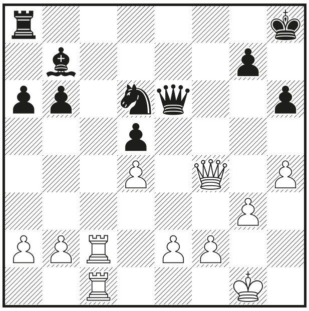


Preparing a sacrifice on e6; the knight is going to sell itself for two pawns and an attack.

15...♗d6 If 15...g5 16.♘xe6 fxe6 17.♗xe6+ ♔h8 18.hxg5 hxg5 19.♖c7 ♘df6 20.♗e5 with an edge for White.

16.♘xe6 fxe6 17.♗xe6+ ♔h8 18.♗xd6 ♘xd6 19.♗xd7 ♖xf3 If 19...♕xd7 20.♘e5 wins the exchange so Black surrenders the rook straightaway.

20.♕xf3 ♕xd7 21.♖c2 ♖a8 22.♖ac1 ♕e6 23.♕f4



White is in command as Black cannot contest the c-file and the bishop is vulnerable to the white rooks.

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England's over 65 team: Anthony Stebbings, Paul Littlewood, John Nunn, Nigel Povah and Ian Snape

23...♖e8 24.♖c7 ♗a8 25.♕e5 ♕xe5 26.dxe5 ♖xe5 27.♖d7 ♖e6 28.♖d8+ ♔h7 29.♖xa8 ♖xe2 30.h5 d4 31.♖d8 d3 32.♖xd6

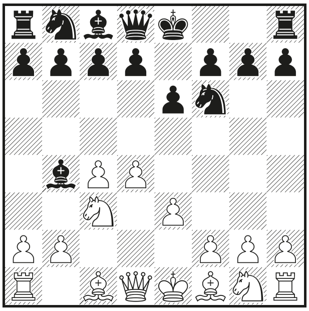
1-0

Now two wins from the victorious over 65 team, starting with one by Tony Stebbings.

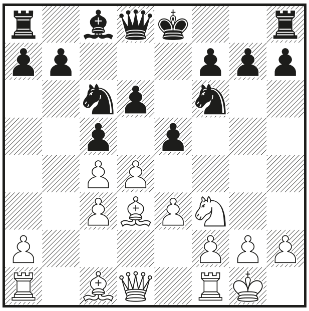
Anthony **Stebbings** - Nicolas **Giffard**

World Senior Teams +65 Acqui Terme ITA (5.1)

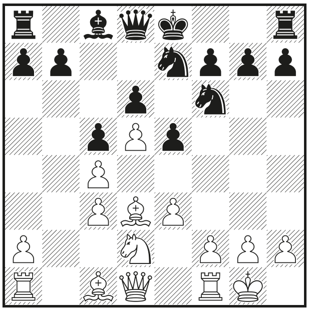
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.e3



4...♗xc3+ 5.bxc3 c5 6.♗d3 ♘c6 7.♘f3 d6 8.0-0 e5



9.d5 ♘e7 10.♘d2

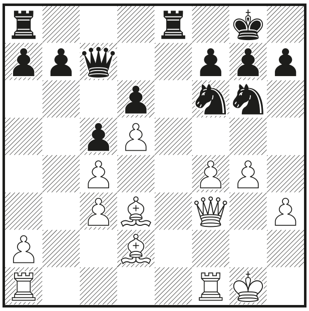


10...♘g6 11.f4 exf4 12.exf4 0-0 13.♘f3 13.♕c2 is also playable, avoiding the potential pin.

13...♖e8 13...♗g4 14.♕c2 ♗xf3 15.♖xf3 ♖e8 may transpose.

14.♗d2 ♗g4 15.h3 ♗xf3 16.♕xf3 ♕c7 16...♕a5 is more energetic.

17.g4



White has good play on the kingside so Black tries queenside action

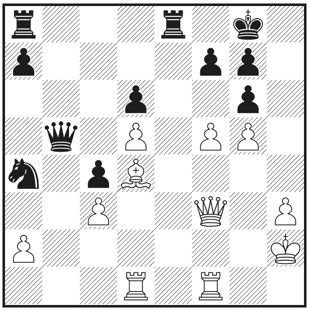
17...b5 Better seems 17...h6 18.♖ae1, with White still retaining the edge.

18.g5 ♘d7 19.♔h2 If 19.cxb5 c4 20.♗c2 ♕c5+ 21.♔h2 ♕xb5.

19...♘b6 19...bxc4 20.♗xc4 ♕a5 is the alternative.

20.cxb5 c4 21.♗xg6 hxg6 22.♗e3 ♕b7 23.♖ad1 ♘a4 23...♕d7 is safer; now the black pieces leave the black king with few defenders.

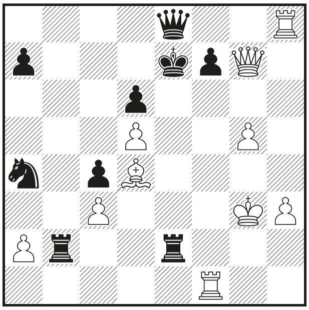
24.♗d4 ♕xb5 25.f5



White invades down the f-file and Black has no good defence as his pieces are on the queenside.

25...gxf5 26.♕xf5 ♖e2+ 27.♔g3 ♕e8 28.♖f4 With the deadly threat of ♖h4.

28...♖b8 29.♖df1 ♖b7 30.♖h4 ♖bb2 31.♕h7+ ♔f8 32.♕xg7+ ♔e7 33.♖h8



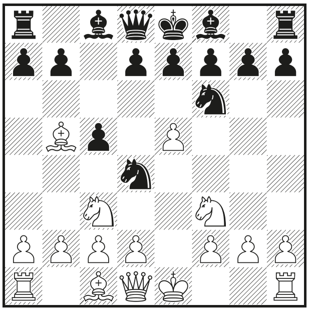
The white king has a safe square on h4 so Black resigns.

1-0

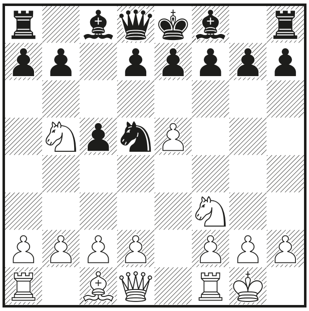
Paul **Littlewood** – Malkiel **Peretz**

World Senior Teams +65 Acqui Terme ITA (6.1)

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.♘c3 ♘c6 4.♗b5 ♘d4 5.e5

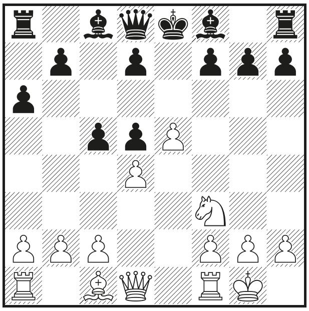


5...♘xb5 6.♘xb5 ♘d5 7.0-0



White has a big lead in development and Black is unable to free himself quickly.

7...a6 8.♘c3 e6 9.♘xd5 exd5 10.d4



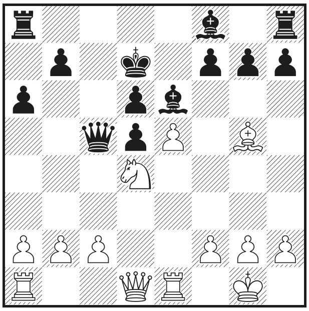
White opens up the centre to attack the king; already White has a big advantage.

10...d6 11.♗g5 ♕b6 If 11...♗e7 12.♗xe7 ♕xe7 13.c4 is strong eg 13...dxe5 14.♘xe5 0-0 *(14...dxc4 15.♖e1 ♗e6 16.d5 0-0-0 17.♘xc4 ♔b8 18.♕h5 ♖xd5 19.♕xd5 ♗xd5 20.♖xe7 ♗xc4 21.♖d1 ♗e6 22.f4 g6 23.♔f2 ♖c8 24.♔e3 c4 White is better)* 15.cxd5;

or 11...f6 12.exf6 gxf6 13.♖e1+ ♔f7 14.♗f4, when White is winning.

12.dxc5 ♕xc5 12...dxc5 13.♕xd5 with a sound extra pawn.

13.♖e1 ♗e6 14.♘d4 ♔d7



15.b4 15.♗e3 ♕c7 16.♗f4 dxe5 17.♗xe5 ♗d6 18.f4 ♗xe5 19.♖xe5 is also very good.

15...♕c4 16.♘xe6 fxe6 17.♕f3 White decisively invades on f7 and this wins the game.

17...dxe5 18.♖xe5 ♗d6 19.♕f7+ ♔c6 20.♖xe6 ♖hf8 If 20...♕xb4 21.c4 dxc4 22.♖xd6+ ♕xd6 23.♕xc4+ ♕c5 24.♕e6+ ♔b5 25.♖b1+ ♔a4 26.♕b3+ ♔a5 27.♗d2+ and mates.

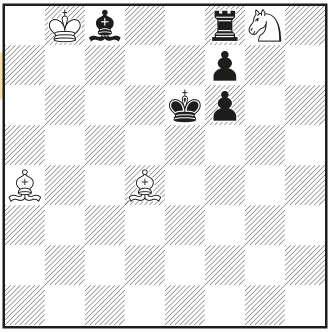
21.♖xd6+ ♔xd6 22.♗e7+

1-0

Endgame Studies

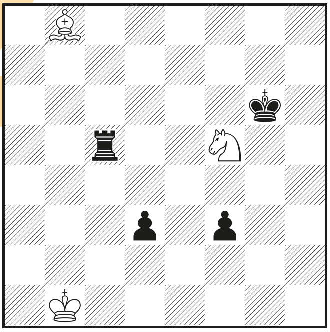
by Ian Watson
ian@irwatson.uk

1



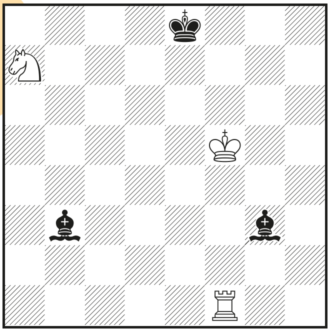
V. Yakovenko
Armenian Republic Ty 1965
DRAW

2



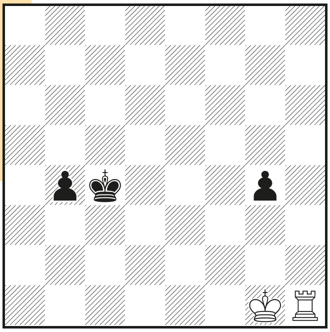
P. Byway
Original composition 2022
DRAW

3



P. Byway
Original composition 2022
WIN

4



P. Byway
Original composition 2022
WIN

Summer Magic

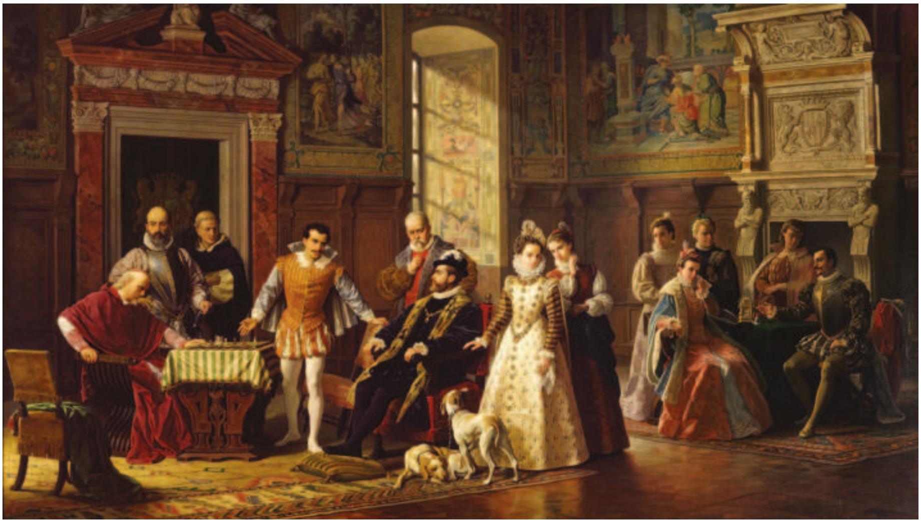
It’s the hottest English day in our history; I’m nearly naked, stripped to the bare necessities. What to write about? Of course!... miniatures - compositions stripped down to their simplest, barely a handful of pieces. Yes, that’s pretentious, but it really did come like that to my befuddled brain. Here are some Summer magical miniatures composed by the master of the genre, Paul Byway.

First, however, a study with a story. It’s a draw study composed by Yakovenko but later found to be unsound. Black could win with a clever trick. Paul Byway decided to correct it and found a similar position which is sound. Unbeknown to Paul, the original study was sound after all! Joachim Reiners had found that the supposed bust doesn’t refute it; a second clever trick saves it. The composer’s solution goes **1.♗b3+ ♔d6 2.♘xf6 ♗e6+ 3.♔b7 ♗xb3 4.♘e4+ ♔d5 5.♗g7 ♖d8 6.♔c7 ♖a8 7.♔b7 ♖a5 8.♔b6 ♖a3 9.♗b2 ♖a8 10.♔b7 ♖d8 11.♔c7 ♖f8 12.♗g7** draws. A fine sequence, but what if Black plays 4...Ke6 instead? The play goes 5.vc5+ ♔d5 6♘xb3 ♔c4 "with an easy win". However, Reiners continued 7.♗g7 ♖g8 8.♘a5+ ♔b5 9.♗c3 ♖g3 10.♗e5 ♖e3 11.♗c7 or in this line 9...f5 10.♘c6. So, Paul’s work creating a sound setting wasn’t necessary. However, who knows? Sometimes the refutation of a refutation can itself be refuted. If so, Paul’s version may yet be published. Such are the vagaries of chess composition.

Now to Paul’s three miniatures, which are for you to solve. ’Miniature’ doesn’t mean easy - all three will very seriously test your solving skills. With studies like these, I try to see how many moves of the composer’s solution I can find - expecting to find it all just leaves you frustrated.

For some somewhat easier solving, go to netchex.club, where there are now several online study-solving tourneys available.

The solutions are on page 511.



Leonard di Cutri defeats Ruy Lopez in Spain,
Luigi Mussini 1886

MAD CHESS IN MADRID

By Grandmaster Raymond Keene OBE

The Spanish capital, Madrid, has recently played host to the world championship Candidates' Tournament which was covered in great detail in the July issue of BCM. The June issue leads with an excellent article by Peter O' Brien, which adumbrates the history of chess in Spain and in particular, that country's role in helping to establish the new chess, more or less the game we play now.

I have no intention of going over the previous ground covered in June; however, one might ask why the ancient piece known as the Vizier, metamorphosed at that time into a Queen. The probable answer is that, as chess moved westward, the pieces gradually took on the aspect of a royal European court, where Queens tended to be more significant than in the more anonymous regal harems of Islamic lands. The new Queen was so devastating, compared with the older version, that some referred to it as ***chess a la rabiatta,*** or mad chess.

It has been variously speculated that the new powers of the Queen owed something to the example of powerful female rulers, such as Isabella of Castile, Queen Elizabeth 1, Marie de Medici or Margaret of Parma, Vice Regent of the Spanish Netherlands on behalf of her brother, Philip II of Armada fame.

Peter O' Brien plumps for Isabella as the inspiration for the new powers of the Queen, an assertion supported by Mike Basman who wrote to me that there is a candidate for the inspiration and rapid popularisation of modern chess (two different concerns) in the influence of the mighty queen Isabella of Spain, who performed the amazing feat of marrying the man of her choice, uniting Spain and even ruling the kingdom in equipollency with her husband Ferdinand of Aragon. And all this while knocking out several children and sending Columbus off to discover America!

Sadly this attractively romantic fable does not fully hold up, since the dates do not entirely fit. The new chess was established before the heyday of these celebrated female potentates. Indeed, the Queen piece was already known and depicted as such in Viking sets from centuries beforehand, including the Isle of Lewis morse (walrus ivory) pieces. What is almost certainly true is that the examples of the flesh and blood queens, especially Isabella, may have reinforced the status of the newly powerful queen piece.

Far more likely is it that the reconstructed Queen represented the introduction of distance weapons on the battlefield, such as the great cannon of the Hungarian engineer Urban, famously used by Sultan Mehmet the Victorious to demolish the ramparts of Constantinople in 1453. If chess is a game representing real warfare, then such a game, lacking a piece possessed of long distance firepower, would have seemed hopelessly outdated. Hence the need for a piece with the vast powers conferred on the new style of Queen.

The part played by Madrid in chess also needs to be reinforced. Arguably the first international competition in the new chess, ***chess a la rabiatta,*** was fought out in Madrid in 1575. Giovanni Leonardo da Cutri was born in Cutro, Calabria. In 1560, he lost a match to Ruy López in Rome. In 1566-1572, he travelled and played chess in Rome, Genoa, Marseille, and Barcelona. He had played many times against Paolo Boi in Italy and they were regarded as being equal in their chess strength.

Da Cutri won the first known international master gathering in the history of chess in Madrid in 1575, therefore becoming the strongest chess master of the time. The remaining contestants were Boi, Ruy Lopez and Alfonso Ceron. Only fragments survive and the remnants do not seriously challenge the reputation of London 1851 as the first properly regulated and fully recorded international chess tournament. Nevertheless, Madrid 1575 was a significant moment in the development of modern chess as we know it. Four centuries later, Spain was to celebrate its innovation in great style.

In 1973, almost four hundred years after Ruy Lopez and co had performed for Philip II, Madrid, was host to a category XII international tournament from November 26th to December 15th. Twelve Grandmasters and four masters were invited to participate in this round robin event. The year 1973 was significant for world champion to be, Anatoly Karpov. After tying for first with Viktor Korchnoi at the Leningrad Interzonal (1973) he added this tournament win to his laurels, not to mention the Chess Oscar at year's end. Fischer's nemesis was gradually but inexorably marching towards the American champion's fainéant throne.

MADRID TOURNAMENT, 1973 Final Standings:																		
1	Anatoly Karpov	*	½	½	½	1	1	½	½	½	1	½	1	1	1	1	½	11.0
2	Vladimir Tukmakov	½	*	½	½	½	½	1	0	1	1	1	½	1	1	½	1	10.5
3	Semyon Furman	½	½	*	½	1	1	½	½	½	½	1	0	1	½	1	1	10.0
4	Vlastimil Hort	½	½	½	*	½	½	1	1	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	1	9.5
5	Wolfgang Uhlmann	0	½	0	½	*	½	½	½	1	1	½	1	½	1	1	1	9.5
6	Ulf Andersson	0	½	0	½	½	*	½	½	1	½	½	1	1	1	½	1	9.0
7	Lajos Portisch	½	0	½	0	½	½	*	½	½	1	1	1	½	½	1	1	9.0
8	Walter Browne	½	1	½	0	½	½	½	*	½	½	½	1	1	½	1	0	8.5
9	Ljubomir Ljubojevic	½	0	½	½	0	0	½	½	*	½	1	1	½	1	1	1	8.5
10	Albin Planinc	0	0	½	½	0	½	0	½	½	*	1	0	1	0	1	1	6.5
11	Oscar Panno	½	0	0	½	½	½	0	½	0	0	*	½	1	½	1	½	6.0
12	Ricardo Calvo	0	½	1	½	0	0	0	0	0	1	½	*	½	½	0	½	5.0
13	Julio Kaplan	0	0	0	½	½	0	½	0	½	0	0	½	*	1	½	1	5.0
14	Arturo Pomar Salamanca	0	0	½	0	0	0	½	½	0	1	½	½	0	*	½	1	5.0
15	Silvino Garcia Martinez	0	½	0	½	0	½	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	½	*	½	4.0
16	Juan Manuel Bellon Lopez	½	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	½	½	0	0	½	*	3.0

Marta Haus: An oasis of peace for the Lasker family

LIFE, STRUGGLE AND SCHOLARSHIP

A REVIEW OF **"EMANUEL LASKER: VOLUME III; LABORS AND LEGACY, CHESS, PHILOSOPHY AND PSYCHOLOGY"** EDITED BY RICHARD FORSTER, MICHAEL NEGELE AND RAJ TISCHBIEREK, WITH A FOREWORD BY JOHN NUNN, EXZELSIOR VERLAG, BERLIN, 2022

BY PETER O'BRIEN

Well-known chess players have often, at least in the public eye, been viewed as one-dimensional. Excellent at the game, yet with little else of interest about them. The colossal exception is Emanuel Lasker

Apart from being the longest-ever reigning world chess champion, Lasker has some claims to be considered as a late 19th/ early 20th-century renaissance man. As the title of this third and final volume on his life shows, his insatiable curiosity allied with a remarkable intellect led him into so many areas of life. And he did not dabble. Although, as the authors point out, some of his works could have benefitted from a deeper grounding in the subjects concerned, he did not hesitate to join the debate at the highest level. From disputations with Einstein concerning the theory of relativity to the discussion of the meaning of western culture, through to critiquing some of the famed Culbertson's work on contract bridge, Lasker was there. His renowned approach to life as a question of struggle was not merely a perspective on existence – it was his way of life.

The editors and contributors to this magnificent work of scholarship (for that is what the book is - top-class historical research delivered by authors who know their craft) seek to offer us the whole spectrum of cosmopolitanism tinged with chauvinism, Judaism yet circumventing the rabbinical style, scientific precision coupled with an acute sense of its fallibility, seriousness broadly sprinkled with humour (on p.73 there is his delightful comment 'the loss of my teeth has had a positive effect on my French pronunciation'), and an ethical outlook derived from essential humanity rather than precept.

Kagan: A Master Mind, on and off the board

It seems possible that, among other things, Lasker contributed to the design of a tank which would, had it been produced, have certainly revolutionised the horrendous trench warfare in WW1

The material is presented in nine deep chapters, each drawing on rich archival information and supplemented by countless photographs and other supporting documents. Given that one of the chapters is a bibliography of Lasker's writings on everything which interested him, and this extends beyond 50 pages, the remarkable range of both Lasker and his biographers should not be in any doubt.

Richard Forster, the justly famed Swiss computer engineer, offers in Chapter 1 a Biographical Compass which goes from the outbreak of war in 1914, when Lasker was in his mid-forties, through to his death in New York in 1941. At the very start, we are given quotations from articles written by Lasker in 1914 extolling German superiority and scornfully deriding other cultures, especially English and Russian. These pieces did not bring him any friends in those countries and most likely lost him more than a few. His initial optimism that Germany would emerge as a victor in the conflict did not prevent him from engaging in proper scientific work to assist the war effort. Indeed, it seems possible that, among other things, he contributed to the design of a tank which would, had it been produced, have certainly revolutionised the horrendous trench warfare. Furthermore, in December 1916 he filed for a patent concerning a method he had developed for the conservation of fruit, vegetables and other perishables. He was more than alert to the dangers of 'fake news' about events, and gave many talks, in Germany, about the need to bolster morale.

The end of the war and the consequences this would have for life as he had known it were not lost on Lasker. He perceived that a particular world was gone (a view superbly expressed years later by Stefan Zweig in 'Die Welt von Gestern'

Laskers in Moscow: A haven in the storm

Lasker and his wife received in Madrid an invitation to a corrida. The response gives another insight into Lasker's perception of struggle. He said that neither of them 'cared to attend a fight in which both contestants do not have equal arms and equal chances'

(The World of Yesterday)) and that cosmopolitanism was under siege, and most likely destined to be swept aside, with his own country a leader of the aggressors. Yet, as always, his optimism and capacity to adapt prevailed.

With the exceptional support of his wife Martha, far better versed in business affairs than her husband, the Laskers invested in property in the countryside, not too far from Berlin. This gave them a kind of refuge, though Lasker was never inclined to shirk any of life's challenges, above all those facing a prominent Jewish personality in a profoundly antisemitic world. While this whirlwind of change/destruction was engulfing him, there was also the matter of defending his world chess crown. Relations with Capablanca had never been good, but suffice it to say that a match did take place in La Habana in early 1921 which Lasker lost. The loss does not seem to have perturbed him greatly, and he enjoyed returning to Europe. In fact, he and his wife came back through Spain where in Madrid they received an invitation to a *corrida*. The response gives another insight into Lasker's perception of struggle. He said that neither of them 'cared to attend a fight in which both contestants do not have equal arms and equal chances'.

Shedding the mantle of world champion appears to have liberated Lasker in various ways, while the drawbacks were few. He continued travelling with barely a break, worked intensively on several of his non-chess activities, and rapidly recovered from reputational damage caused by his nationalistic stance in the early stages of the Great War. By 1924 he was not only back in the USA but also the brilliant victor of the New York

Art Workers Moscow 1937: Ever the magnet of attention

International Tournament, well ahead of Capablanca. This turned out to be not the only occasion when his tournament performances outstripped those of the Cuban. The appearance fees he could command for tournament appearances remained relatively high, and he clearly understood the value of scarcity by constantly refusing to play in places which did not offer him enough.

Travel, even if occasioned and facilitated by the passport which his chess fame gave him, was always accompanied by countless attempts to obtain publishers for his books, especially those not relating to chess, as well as encounters with a wonderful cast of business characters. In the USA he had dealings with Nathan Schweitzer, who was busy making a fortune in the poultry markets ('We sell anything with wings except angels'), alongside major lawyers, university leaders and several other highly influential people.

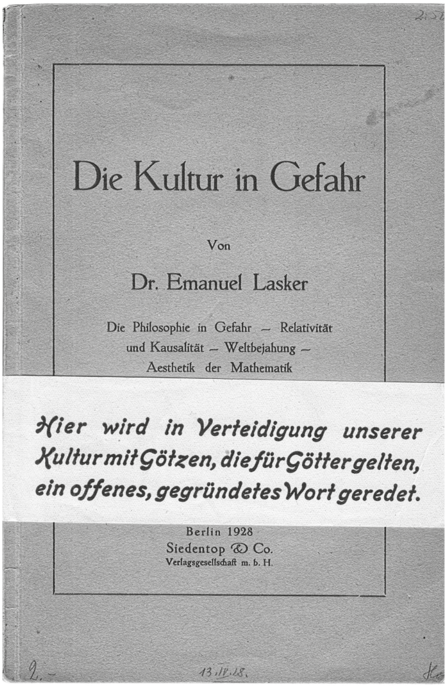
Whatever dimension of his life we take, friction was always there. As a person driven by fundamental ethical beliefs, with a weltanschauung which saw no problems in the coexistence of apparently contradictory perceptions

Whatever dimension of his life we take, friction was always there. As a person driven by fundamental ethical beliefs, by a *weltanschauung* which saw no problems in the coexistence of apparently contradictory perceptions, and by a commitment to dialogue whether spoken or written, friction was not only bound to occur but also positively welcomed. As on the chessboard, so in life – struggle and the clash of opposing ideas offered everyone the chance to learn. Of course, quite a few of those coming up against this relentless pursuit of Lasker's did not see the clashes in the same way that he did. Animosities arose. In several cases, though not all, time proved to be a healer. Relationships, whether in the chess world or in the other worlds which

Lasker inhabited, were often repaired. Whatever the surface appearances may have been, I think we can say that Lasker had the wisdom to distinguish between the quality of the person and the specific content of a particular disagreement.

The 1930s were a disastrous decade for Lasker and so many other truly outstanding Jewish figures. Both Forster's biography and Sergey Voronkov's chapter on the Laskers' time in the Soviet Union spell out the profound worries (never to be dissipated) the great Master had not only for himself but also for the whole civilization of which he was a prominent part. At the latest by 1932, he had perceived that a catastrophe was about to engulf that civilisation. And he also sensed that the submerging wave would move at astonishing speed.

Just before reading the book under review, I had read a very recent bestseller in Germany by Uwe Wittstock entitled '1933: Der Winter der Literatur'. This day-by-day account of the approximately seven weeks from the end of January 1933 to mid-March 1933 (by which time Hitler was Reichskanzler) shows how the whole cultural world in Germany was literally blown to smithereens by unmitigated savagery. Lasker knew that refuge would have to be found. It is perhaps ironic that the Soviet Union fulfilled that function, at least for a couple of years. The Laskers were given a more than decent apartment in Moscow, and while there the seemingly ageless champion turned in one of his greatest tournament performances, splendidly analysed by Manuel Marin in his chapter towards the end of the book. But Stalin's 'urge for the purge' could not be contained, so the Laskers set out for their last abode in the USA.



Die Kultur in Gefahr

Von

Dr. Emanuel Lasker

Die Philosophie in Gefahr – Relativität
und Kausalität – Weltbejahung –
Aesthetik der Mathematik

Hier wird in Verteidigung unserer
Kultur mit Götzen, die für Götter gelten,
ein offenes, gegründetes Wort geredet.

Berlin 1928
Siedentop & Co.
Verlagsgesellschaft m. b. H.

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Kultur in Gefahr:
The never ending struggle to protect the
cultural heritage

It has often been remarked that Lasker did not, like many others, leave a 'chess school'. The problem with schools is that by setting out specific ways things 'should be done' they make themselves vulnerable to attack as times change and attitudes alter. Instead, Lasker has transcended the phase of 'builders of schools' to become the great influencer. Maybe the world we live in right now, in which certain views on how things should be have come under the fiercest assault and the need to stand up and be counted has, at last, become apparent to many, is particularly receptive to the Lasker message. If it is not, it should be. This outstanding piece of scholarship proferred by Richard Forster and his fellow historians spells out the message in an inimitable style.

MAN OF STEEL
FIRST AMONG EQUALS
NO TRESPASSING
LEGEND LIVES ON
GUY WITH A TORCH
MY GENERATION
HOW TO BECOME A GRANDMASTER?
GARRY BACK TO THE FUTURE
Sabina CINDERELLA REWRITTEN
BROTHERS IN ARMS
Wesley THE SKY IS THE LIMIT
CATCH ME IF YOU CAN BRANDON JACOBSON
US GOLDEN DREAM TEAM
MENDING TO THE STARS
Sam Shankland CAPTAIN AMERICA
Fabiano's FABULOUS ROLLERCOASTER
When a Giant Awakes
WHO'S FASTER? NAKAMURA VS NASCAR
THE QUEEN'S GAMBIT
INSIDE THE MASSIMAL VAULT

AMERICAN
CHESS MAGAZINE

ACMchess.com

THE SIGEMAN TOURNAMENT, Malmo (Sweden), 3rd to 9th May

THE RISE OF HANS MOKE NIEMANN

TO WIN SUCH A SHORT AND STRONG TOURNAMENT A FULL POINT AHEAD OF THE REST REQUIRES A BIG SCORE AND NIEMANN ACHIEVED IT BY WINNING THREE GAMES IN A ROW

By GM Aleksandar Colovic

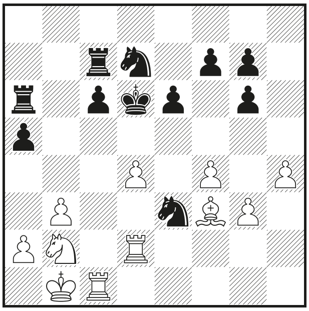
Mixing youth and experience has become a winning formula for a lot of events. Organisers seem to have stopped chasing the highest rating average and prefer to give the young a chance to compete with the experienced and proven players.

The Sigeman tournament in Malmo, Sweden, took place from 3rd to 9th May. Eight players played a single round-robin in a category 18 event. Participants included legends like Adams and Shirov, the best Swede Grandelius and a crop of young talents like Erigaisi, van Foreest and Niemann.

The young American, Hans Moke Niemann, fresh from a triumph in Havana at the Capablanca Memorial, continued with a second tournament victory in a row. To win such a short and strong tournament a full point ahead of the rest requires a big score and Niemann achieved it by winning three games in a row in rounds three, four and five. The first win was against the principal opponent of the same age, another young player on the rise, the Indian Erigaisi, who had the perfect start of 2/2 before this game.

Hans Moke **Niemann** - Arjun **Erigaisi**

27th Sigeman & Co 2022 Malmo SWE (3.2)



The players had manoeuvred in this endgame for 18 moves by this point and White couldn't really make progress against Black's impregnable defence, based on the strong point on d5. But at this moment, two moves before move 40, the young Indian unexpectedly gave White a chance to make quick progress.

38...♘f5? It makes little sense to leave the trusted defence after, let's say, 38...♘d5, but it's likely that Black missed the fact that White's next move is actually playable.

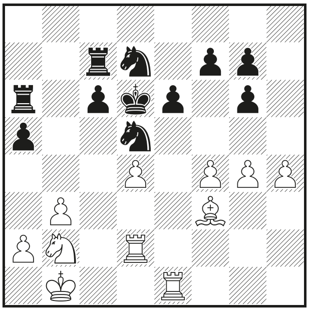
39.g4! White can now open the game on the kingside.

39...♘e3 A sad necessity, giving away two tempi.

The tactical justification, and the line Erigaisi probably missed, is that after 39...♘xh4 40.♗h1! the knight on h4 is out of squares, so the only move to liberate it is 40...g5; but now, after 41.fxg5 ♘g6 42.♗e4, Black has to allow a further wrecking of his structure after ♗xg6 fxg6 because retreating the knight leads to a cute mate after 42...♘e7 43.♘c4#.

40.♖e1 The engine prefers to put the other rook on the e-file but this is strong enough.

40...♘d5



41.f5! This move is only possible because White was given the chance to support it with g4.

41...♖c8 Black cannot take the pawn as he ends up mated again after 41...gxf5? 42.gxf5 exf5 43.♘c4#

42.♘c4+ White improves the position of his knight, with tempo.

42.fxg6 was a good alternative, with the idea of 42...fxg6 43.g5 and ♗g4 to come next, targeting the new weakness on e6.

42...♔e7 43.h5 White continues the attack on Black's kingside.

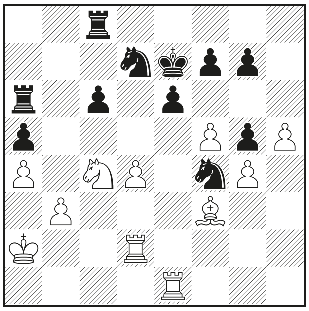
43...g5 Black tries to keep the kingside closed.

43...gxh5 44.gxh5 opens the g-file for an attack on the g7-pawn.

43...a4 is met by 44.b4! with the idea of 44...gxf5 *(or 44...♘xb4 45.hxg6 when Black's kingside collapses)*. 45.gxf5 ♘xb4 46.fxe6 fxe6 47.♖g2 ♖g8 48.♖eg1 and Black cannot hold the g7-pawn because 48...♔f8 is met by 49.h6.

44.a4 Stopping any counterplay based on ...a4.

44...♘f4 45.♔a2!



White takes time to improve the position of his king. On a3 the king will be safe from checks and also defends the pawn on b3.

45...♖b8 46.♔a3 ♖d8 Black marks time: unfortunately, he cannot do much.

46...♘b6 is an attempt to put the other knight on d5, but it fails to 47.♘e5 ♘bd5

48.♗xd5! and Black doesn't have a good way to recapture: 48...♘xd5 *(48...cxd5 49.♖c2 allows a decisive penetration along the c-file)* 49.♖f2 threatening fxe6 and ♖f7. 49...♘f4 50.h6! gxh6 51.f6+ ♔e8 *(51...♔xf6 52.♘d7+ drops the rook on b8)* 52.♖h1 and White breaks through using the h-file.

47.fxe6 fxe6 48.♖c2 White will now launch a combined attack on all Black's weaknesses, which are basically all his pawns, being isolated and doubled.

48...♖f8 49.♗e4 ♔d8 50.♘d2 Targeting the pawn on c6.

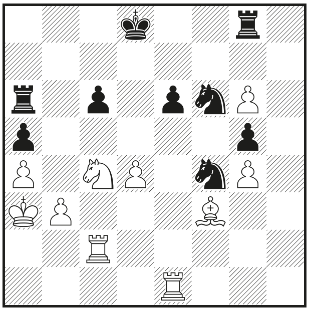
50...♘f6 51.♗f3 White wants to keep it controlled, not allowing any counterplay.

It was possible to exchange the c6-pawn for the g4-pawn with 51.♗xc6 ♘xg4 52.♗b7! as White develops strong activity after 52...♖d6 53.♘c4 ♖xd4 54.♘xa5 but this is too much calculation for a human, who prefers to win by maintaining control.

51...g6 This only helps White to further open the game, but Black's position was impossible to hold for much longer.

51...♘6d5 52.♖e5 ♘b4 53.♖c4 wins the pawn on g5.

52.hxg6 ♖g8 53.♘c4



A multi-purpose move: the knight keeps an eye on the pawn on a5, the e5 and d6 squares and liberates the second rank for ♖h2 and a further penetration down the h-file.

53...♘d7 54.♖h2 ♖xg6 55.♖h8+ ♔c7 56.♖h7 Threatening ♘e5.

56...♔d8 57.♖eh1 Black simply cannot defend everything.

57...♖f6 58.♖g7 ♘g6 59.♗e4 ♘gf8 60.♘e5 Taking on g5 was also good, but this is stronger.

60...♖f4 61.♖h8 ♘xe5 61...♖xe4 allows a mate after 62.♖xd7+ ♔e8 63.♖f7! with ♖hxf8 next.

62.dxe5 c5 Notice how the rook on a6 is completely out of play.

63.♗f5! Threatening mate on f8.

63...♔e8 64.♗g6+ ♔d8 65.♗f7 Again attacking the knight on f8.

65...♔e7 66.♗xe6+ A simple combination to finish the game.

66...♔xe6 67.♖h6+ ♔xe5 68.♖xg5+ The unfortunate rook on a6 is lost and Black resigned. An impressive technical performance by Niemann.

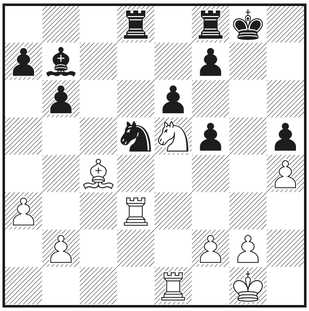
1-0

It is incredible how such young players are already complete in terms of their mastery of the game. They can calculate, attack, defend and play technical endgames equally well.

Niemann's next two victories were also in endgames. First, he beat Salem and then Shirov.

AR **Salem** - Hans Moke **Niemann**

27th Sigeman & Co 2022 Malmo SWE (4.4)



Black is a pawn up, but thanks to the strong knight on e5 White should be able to keep the balance. However, he needs to be precise in this moment.

28.♖ed1? This natural move allows Black to centralise his king.

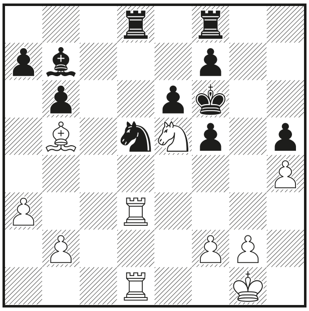
White had to create counterplay immediately, first by pushing the black king to the h-file with 28.♖g3+! ♔h7 and then by eliminating the dominating knight with 29.♗xd5! ♖xd5 so that he can use the c-file and the c3 and c7 squares left unguarded after the elimination of the d5-knight with 30.♖c3! threatening ♖c7. Here White has enough activity not to be worse.

28...♔g7! Now the king gets to f6 and Black takes over.

29.♗b5? It was still better for White to eliminate the dominating knight.

29.♗xd5! ♗xd5 30.♖c3 is a worse version than on move 28, but still the better fighting chance. After 30...♔f6 31.f4 White can hope to defend thanks to his blockade on the dark squares.

29...♔f6!



A nice tactical solution! Black sacrifices an exchange by allowing the fork on d7 but starts a strong attack with all his remaining pieces.

The simple 29...♖c8 was also good, though White can play 30.♖g3+ ♔h6 and the king on h6 doesn't look great, but Black will start pushing back White's pieces with ...f6, ...f4 etc.

30.♘d7+ ♖xd7 31.♗xd7 ♘f4 A double attack on d3 and g2.

32.♖d6 ♗xg2 33.♗c6 ♖g8 Black's attack is dangerous and he wins more material now.

34.♗xg2 ♖xg2+ 35.♔f1 ♖h2 The pawn on h4 drops as White needs to defend against mate on h1.

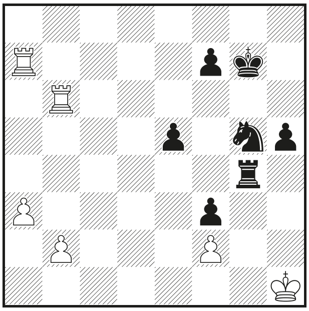
36.♔g1 ♖xh4 With three pawns for the exchange and continuing threats against the king, Black is winning.

37.♖d7 ♖g4+ 38.♔h1 ♘h3 39.♖1d2 ♘g5 Now the threat is ...♘f3 and ...♖g1#.

40.♖2d3 f4 Moving the pawns forward.

41.♖xa7 f3 42.♖b3 e5 Black wants to defend the f3-pawn by ...e4 and then simply mate White with ideas like ...♘h3-f4 or ...♖g2, ...♘h3xf2.

43.♖xb6+ ♔g7



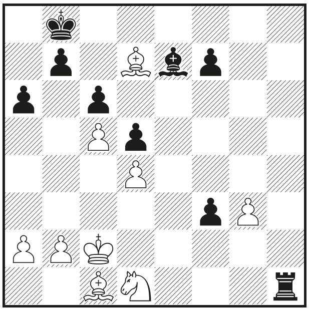
White is defenceless against ...♘h3(e4)xf2 so he resigned.

To illustrate: 43...♔g7 44.♖c7 ♘h3 45.♖c2 ♖g2 with ...♘xf2 or ...e4-e3 to come next.

0-1

Hans Moke **Niemann** - Alexei **Shirov**

27th Sigeman & Co 2022 Malmo SWE (5.1)



The middlegame was topsy-turvy, with Shirov missing several promising continuations, and now the endgame keeps the sharpness of the middlegame. However, here it is already Black who needs to be careful - if White is allowed to consolidate, his two pieces will be stronger than the rook.

35...♔c7? This natural move is a mistake as it allows White to coordinate his pieces and control the passed f-pawn. But the correct ideas were far from obvious.

35...♗d8! was one such idea - the bishop comes to c7 to attack the pawn on g3 and in case of 36.♗f4+ ♗c7 37.♔d2 ♗xf4+ 38.gxf4 ♖h2+ 39.♔e3 ♖e2+! 40.♔xf3 ♖d2 41.♘c3 ♖xd4 the rook is active enough to keep the balance.

35...♖h2+ 36.♔d3 ♖h1 looks like a waste of time, but Black keeps attacking White's pieces and prevents him from consolidating. After 37.♗f4+ ♔a7 38.♘f2 ♖b1 39.♔c3 ♗d8! Black successfully switches the activity to the queenside, with the threat of ...♗a5, harassing White's king. White cannot keep everything under control; for example, on 40.♘d3 ♗a5+ 41.b4 ♗xb4+! 42.♘xb4 f2 43.♗h3 f1♕ 44.♗xf1 ♖xf1 Black's compact pawn structure and the active rook should keep him out of trouble.

36.♗g4 Now White should be able to keep control over the position. Black still keeps chances, though.

36...♖f1 37.♗f4+ ♔d8 38.♗e3 38.♘e3 ♖f2+ 39.♔c3 was an alternative, with the subsequent transfer of the bishop from g4 via f5 to d3.

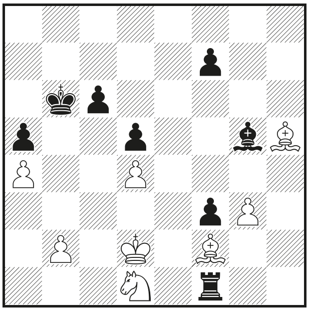
38...♗f6 39.a4 Since White firmly controls the f-pawn and the black rook is limited to staying on f1 to defend it, White expands on the queenside.

39...a5 40.♔d2 ♔c7 41.♗h5 White targets the f7-pawn but cannot really take it as Black musters quick counterplay after his next move.

41...b6 Black becomes active on the queenside, exchanging the space-grabbing pawn on c5.

42.cxb6+ ♔xb6 43.♗f2 White blocks the f-file and attacks the pawn on f3. 43.♗xf7 allows 43...♗e7! with the threat of ...♗b4. 44.♗f2 ♗b4+ 45.♔c2 ♗e1 with counterplay.

43...♗g5+?



Surprisingly, Shirov misses the moment to create dynamic counterplay. After this move he loses the f3-pawn for nothing.

43...♔c7! removes the king from the g1-a7 diagonal and allows for a tactical defence of the pawn on f3. Black’s idea is to counter 44.♗xf3 with 44...♗xd4! when 45.♗xd4 is not with check (that is why the king was badly placed on b6!) and after 45...♖xf3 Black is active and has the idea of pushing the central pawns with ...♔d6 and ...c5.

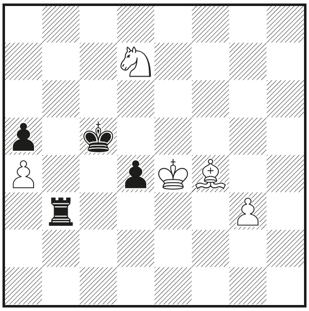
44.♔c2 f6 45.b3 The pawn on f3 won’t escape so Niemann takes his time.

45.♗xf3 was possible, as after 45...♗e3 46.♗xe3 ♖xf3 47.♗f2 White keeps his pawn on d4 and has a material advantage.

45...♗h6 46.♗xf3 With no more useful moves White cashes in.

46...♗e3 47.♗xe3 ♖xf3 48.♗f4 The pawn on d4 makes a huge difference and White is winning now.

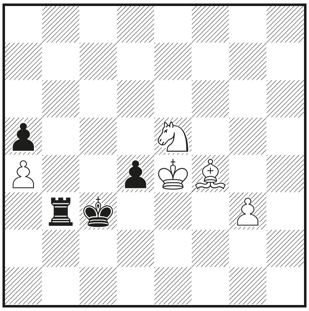
48...c5 49.♘e3 cxd4 50.♘xd5+ ♔c5 51.♘xf6 ♖f2+ 52.♔d3 ♖f3+ 53.♔e4 ♖xb3 54.♘d7+



White wants to stop any counterplay based on the advance of the d-pawn, so he transfers the knight to e5 from where it controls d3 and can come to f3 to establish firm blockade on the d2-square.

54.g4 was an alternative way, to push the passed pawn as soon as possible.

54...♔c4 55.♘e5+ ♔c3



56.♘f3! The last precise move.

56.♘d3? would be a mistake as after 56...♖a3 White loses the a4-pawn.

56...♖a3 57.♗d2+ This is now possible thanks to the knight being on f3 - White wins the pawn on a5.

57...♔c2 58.♗xa5 d3 58...♖xa4 59.♘xd4+ is elementary.

59.♘e1+ Black loses the last pawn.

1-0

Niemann drew the remaining three games and won with an undefeated five out of seven, ahead of Adams, Grandelius and Erigaisi on four.

The second convincing tournament victory in a row brought Niemann into the top 100 and is definitely not the end of his ambition.

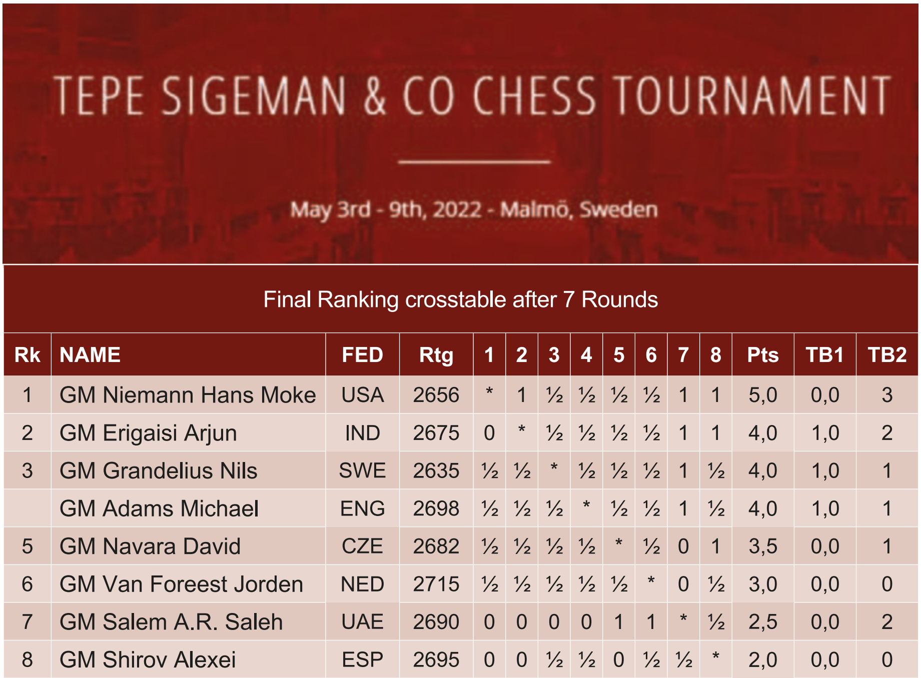
I talked to Hans after his win and he shared a few insights from this victory and also from his rapid progress in the last period.

It was the strongest tournament he has ever played, but he didn't feel nervous. He described his win against Shirov as 'special'. When I asked him about his recent progress, he stressed the importance of hard work and complete dedication. This is notable, because in the past Hans was involved in other activities like streaming and chess promotion, but he came to realise that they take away his focus and energy.

While he wouldn't disclose what exactly he worked on, saying 'many things', which doesn't reveal much, it's clear that his stamina to win long games in a technical manner is an important factor. He also must have worked hard on his conversion technique - after all you don't grind out wins against strong players without hard work on that aspect of your game!

I always enjoy watching the young players progress. How far can they go? What problems will they encounter on their way and will they manage to overcome them? These questions are intriguing because eventually they are answered by their careers.

Hans Niemann is another exciting prospect and currently the highest-rated American junior with a lot of opportunities to grow. With youth, the sky is always the limit, but not all reach it. Nevertheless, I wish them all the best of luck!



TEPE SIGEMAN & CO CHESS TOURNAMENT

May 3rd - 9th, 2022 - Malmö, Sweden

Final Ranking crosstable after 7 Rounds

Rk	NAME	FED	Rtg	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Pts	TB1	TB2
1	GM Niemann Hans Moke	USA	2656	*	1	½	½	½	½	1	1	5,0	0,0	3
2	GM Erigaisi Arjun	IND	2675	0	*	½	½	½	½	1	1	4,0	1,0	2
3	GM Grandelius Nils	SWE	2635	½	½	*	½	½	½	1	½	4,0	1,0	1
	GM Adams Michael	ENG	2698	½	½	½	*	½	½	1	½	4,0	1,0	1
5	GM Navara David	CZE	2682	½	½	½	½	*	½	0	1	3,5	0,0	1
6	GM Van Foreest Jorden	NED	2715	½	½	½	½	½	*	0	½	3,0	0,0	0
7	GM Salem A.R. Saleh	UAE	2690	0	0	0	0	1	1	*	½	2,5	0,0	2
8	GM Shirov Alexei	ESP	2695	0	0	½	½	0	½	½	*	2,0	0,0	0

SOLUTIONS TO ENDGAMES (See page 494)

Byway - *White king on b1*

1.♘h4+ ♔f6 2.♘xf3 ♖f5 3.♘e5 ♖f1+ 4.♔b2 d2 5.♘g4+ ♔f5 6.♘f2 ♖xf2 7.♔c2 ♔e4 8.♗d6 ♔e3 9.♗b4 ♖g2 10.♗a5 positional draw.

An impressive sequence of only moves, although there is a slight defect in that White can play 8.♗c7 instead of 8.♗d6; that's what study experts consider a 'minor dual'.

Here goes with the (many) alternatives:

1...♔h5 2.♘xf3 ♖f5 3.♘d2 ♖b5+ 4.♔c1 ♖xb8 5.♘e4 ♖d8 6.♔d2 ♔g4 7.♔e3. 2...♖b5+ 3.♔c1 ♖xb8 4.♔d2 ♖d8 5.♔e3 ♔f5 6.♘d2 (or in this line 4...♖b3 5.♘d4 ♖a3 6.♘b5 ♖a5 7.♘c3). Multiple tries on move three: 3.♔c1? ♖xf3 4.♔d2 ♔f5 5.♗a7 ♔e4 or 3.♘d4? ♖f1+ 4.♔b2 d2 or 3.♘d2? ♖b5+ 4.♔c1 ♖xb8 5.♘f3 ♔f5 6.♔d2 ♔f4 7.♘e1 ♔e4 8.♔c1 ♖b1+ 9.♔d2 ♖b2+ 10.♔d1 ♔e3 or 3.♘h2? ♖b5+ 4.♔c1 ♖xb8 5.♘g4+ ♔f5 6.♘f2 ♖b3 7.♔d2 ♖b2+ 8.♔e3 ♖xf2 or 3.♗e5+? ♔e7 4.♔c1 ♖xf3 5.♔d2 ♔e6 6.♗~ ♔d5.

3...♖xe5 4.♗xe5+ ♔xe5 5.♔c1 ♔e4 6.♔d2. 6.♘e3+? ♔e4 7.♘D1 ♖xd1 8.♔c2 ♖b1 or 6.♔c3? d1♘+ 7.♔~ ♔xg4. 9.♗c5+? ♔e2. 10.♗c3? d1♕+ 11.♔xd1 ♔d3.

Byway - *White king on f5*

1. ♖f3 ♗c2+ 2.♔e6 ♗e1 3.♖e3 ♗f2 4.♖h3 ♗d4 5.♘b5 ♗b2 6.♖f3 ♗d1 7.♘d6+ ♔d8 8.♖f8+ ♔c7 9.♖c8+ ♔b6 10.♖b8+ wins.

This was based on a study by Harri Hurme in Suomen Shakki in 1981.

Plenty of sidelines that you need to see to be able to correctly solve it:

1...♗b8 2.♖e3+ ♔f8 3.♘c6 ♗c2+ 4.♔e6 ♗h2 5.♖e2 ♗b3+ 6.♔d7 ♗g1 7.♖e1 ♗c5 8.♖c1.

2...♗h4 3.♖h3 ♗e7 4.♘b5 ♗d1 5.♖h8+ ♗f8 6.♘d6+. 2...♗b8/♗c7/♗h2 3.♖h3. 3...♗b4 4.♘c6 ♗f8 5.♖h3 ♗a4 6.♘e5 ♔d8 7.♖h8 ♗b3+ 8.♔f6. 3...♗a5 4.♘c6 ♗b6 5.♖g3 ♔f8 6.♘e5 ♗a4 7.♖a3 or 3...♗d2 4.♖e2 or 3...♗h4 4.♖h3. 4...♗c5 5.♘b5. 5...♗d1 6.♖g3 ♗c5 7.♖g8+ ♗f8 8.♘d6+ or 5...♗g7/a1 6.♖a3. 6...♗g7 7.♖a3, or 6...♗a4 7.♘d6+ and as the main line.

Byway - *White king on g1*

1.♔f2 ♔d3 2.♖b1 g3+ 3.♔e1 ♔c3 4.♔e2 b3 5.♖c1+ ♔d4 6.♔d2 ♔e4 7.♖c4+ ♔f3 8.♔e1 b2 9.♖b4 g2 10.♖b3+ wins. White's king has to oscillate in the centre, to keep an eye on both Black's pawns.

Here's the supporting evidence, in case you're unconvinced:

1.♖h4? b3 and 1.♔f1? ♔d3 2.♔e1 b3 are draws. In the main line, 1...♔c3 ♔e2 or 1...g3+ 2.♔e2 win. 3.♔xg3? ♔c3 4.♔f3 b3 5.♔e2 ♔c2 draws. 3...g2 4.♖b3+ ♔c2 5.♖g3 g1♕+ 6.♖xg1 b3 7.♖g2+ ♔c1 8.♖g5 ♔c2 9.♖c5+ ♔d3 10.♔d1. 4.♖c1+ ♔d3 5.♖b1 ♔c3 is simply a loss of time. 4...g2 5.♖c1+ ♔d4 6.♖g1 ♔c3 7.♖xg2 b3 8.♔d1 b2 9.♖g3+. 5...♔b4 6.♔d2 b2 7.♖g1 ♔b3 8.♖e1. 8...g2 9.♖c3+ or 8...♔g2 9.♖c1. 9.♖c3+ ♔g2.

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